



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts

Release

Subject: File No 100-59001 / Serials 128 to the end of file

The John Birch Society

Readers are well acquainted by now with the John Birch Society. The principles of the society, which describes itself as dedicated to combatting Communism, and of its founder, Robert Welch, who has accused such Americans as Dwight Eisenhower, Milton Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles and General George C. Marshall of being Communists, have been set forth in some detail in this newspaper. We have touched in a previous editorial on the kind of thinking organizations like this represent. Pros and cons on the subject have been extensively set forth in letters to the editor.

Members of the John Birch Society have characterized as lies and distortions factual reports concerning their organization that are based on direct quotations from their own publications. They claim their only purpose is to fight Communists and to promote conservatism—less government, more responsibility, a better world.

While few of us could quarrel with such aims, they do not, in themselves, sanctify the society. The German-American Bund was against Communism. So was Hitler. We don't seek to compare this group with any of this sorry lot, but it is pointed out to demonstrate again that to be against Communism does not necessarily give one an Olympian status. And we think there are ways to fight Communism and ways not to.

No one in his right mind can deny that the threat is real both internally and externally. A careful and thorough treatment of the internal threat has been given by J. Edgar Hoover in "Masters of Deceit," a book we commend to your attention. But the John Birchers, while they make this book a text of their own, don't seem to have absorbed some of Mr. Hoover's sound advice about witch hunts.

Says Mr. Hoover:

"Smears, character assassination, and the scattering of irresponsible charges have no place in this nation. They create division, suspicion, and distrust among loyal Americans—just what the Communists want—and hinder rather than aid the fight against Communism."

Such disruptive influence has been felt already in some neighboring communities. A disgraceful whispering cam-

PASADENA STAR-NEWS
2-12-61
PASADENA, CALIF.
LEE MERRIMAN - Ed.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/NM

357,439

100-59001-149

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 20 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

paing was directed against a number of candidates in a nearby school board election. There has been harassment by phone. One of the stated aims of the John Birch Society is to drive hundreds so-called pro-Communist speakers from the lecture platforms of the nation, by heckling and other pressure, to pave the way for their own "Americanist" speakers.

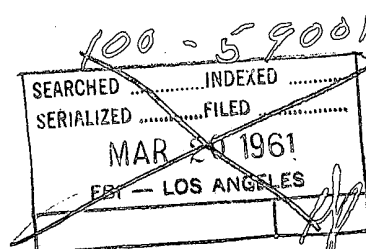
But Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, more or less set the pace for smearing and character assassination in his private bill of goods called "The Politician." Some John Birch leaders deny with some violence that they agree that the Eisenhower brothers, the Dulles brothers or Marshall were Communist traitors, while others seem to evade the issue. All seek to separate the John Birch Society from this book, however, and with a peculiar sense of logic.

They point out that it was written years ago. It was started, in truth, in 1954, and supplemented up through 1958, the year the Society was formed, and printed by photo offset that year for distribution to Mr. Welch's friends and the leaders of the Society.

Mr. Welch, in his "Blue Book," says he has a nose for Communists. We will wonder, in view of these loony charges, just what kind of nose. We would think that the more responsible John Birch Society members who can't swallow these charges of high treason might wonder about. Mr. Welch as an authority on anything else having to do with Communism.

We can't think, as a matter of fact, of ~~anything~~ the Communists themselves could enjoy more. The fear and hysteria created by the extremists of the John Birch group probably delight them. What better for them than to divide good Americans, to make neighbor view neighbor with suspicion? What better smoke screen for their own foul activities could they design?

We feel that the vast majority of John Birch members are decent, honest, patriotic Americans, but we feel they have been misled and carried away, by an admittedly dynamic and hypnotic leader, in their legitimate anxieties about our growing welfare state and the Communist conspiracy against us.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : File (100-59001)

DATE: 3/17/61

FROM : SAC W. G. SIMON

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

b6

At 2:08 P.M., 3/14/61 [REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED] Glendale, California, called and made inquiry concerning the John Birch Society.

b7D

I tactfully pointed out to him the confidential nature of our files and regulations preventing the furnishing of information. I asked him to make no inference from my inability to answer his inquiry that the FBI does or does not have information about said organization.

b6

A check of the indices reflects that a [REDACTED]

b7C

b7D

WGS:gmw
(1)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

100-59001-130

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 21 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/S

Note: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Subject's name and aliases b6 b7C		Address of subject		Character of case Information Concerning	
Complainant <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>		Complainant's address and telephone number <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>		Complaint received XXXX Personal <input type="checkbox"/> Telephonic <input type="checkbox"/> Date <u>3-21-61</u> Time <u>2:35PM</u>	
Subject's Description	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Height	Weight	Birth date and Birthplace
	Age		Eyes	Complexion	
	Scars, marks or other data				

Facts of complaint

C requested information re the John Birch Society. C was advised of the confidential nature of the files of the FBI and was referred to the Subversive Organization section of the Dept. of Justice.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/KM

b6

b7C

Action Recommended

(Agent)

100-59001-151

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

State Group Probes John Birch Society

Fascism Label Studied

By **CARL GREENBERG**
Examiner Political Editor

SACRAMENTO — The State Senate Unamerican Activities Committee is conducting an investigation into the principles of the controversial John Birch Society, whose "Blue Book" has been labeled a "Fascist Manifesto."

This was disclosed Tuesday by Senate President pro tempore Hugh M. Burns (D., Fresno), committee chairman, as Gov. Brown told a news conference he plans to confer with Atty. Gen. Mosk to:

"... See what they (the society) are doing, find out whether they are violating any law ... I think that they

should find out what their motives are because fascism is just as dangerous as communism.

"Whether or not it would ever be able to gain any foothold in our country is kind of hard to believe, but you never know."

Burns said he has no evidence the society is "subversive," but:

"We have heard enough about it, in my opinion, to warrant an investigation. If they have nothing to hide, they will welcome the investigation."

Brown commented on the organization after he was told it was attacked last Sunday in a Santa Barbara sermon by Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States, who warned against permitting substitution of "a Fuehrer principle for our free society."

The Governor said:

"As long as they don't violate the law, they have a right to take any position they want, and I will cry out against it in every way that I can.

"When they want to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren and when they call Dwight Eisenhower a pawn of the Reds it seems to me that we don't have to worry about it too much. The people will see through the transparency of such a group. We've always had them in this country, they rise and fall.

"I'd like to put the light of day on that, show who they are, how many they are, and what they stand for."

Told U. S. Sen. Eastland, D-Miss., chairman of the Senate internal security subcommittee, is sending out replies to inquiries with a statement the society is a "patriotic organization," Brown replied:

"Well, I disagree with him ... he has praise for the segregationists down there and I disagree with him on that. I think it's done our country more harm—in the segregationists' attitude that they have in the South—than almost anything else in the eyes of the world."

The Governor firmly declared Frank Wilkinson of Los Angeles, convicted of contempt of Congress, should be allowed to speak on the Berkeley campus of the Uni-

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATE 3-22-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR Warden Woolard
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/jm

100-59091-152

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 22 1961	
ELES	

b6
b7C

versity of California. He declared:

"I don't believe in prior censorship of the press or the movies or speakers. We have the radical right and we have the radical left and I think the great majority of us are in the middle.

"We have our John Birch societies on one side and we have all these leftist groups that spring up from time to time.

"I wish the majority in the middle would start an organization, call it the Patrick Henry Society, just to take care of us that try to look at things objectively and make up our minds on them."

The Governor said he wasn't passing on the U. S. Supreme Court's decision, but made clear that as a matter of policy

he is against the idea of local laws giving police powers to censor a movie in advance of its showing, such as in Chicago.

"There are plenty of laws to put these people in jail if they violate the rules of decency," he said. "... Let a jury of 12 people decide ...

"I do believe in vigorous prosecution of dirty pictures and dirty books."

As for the Catholic Legion of Decency, the Catholic Governor said it has a right to urge communicants of the church not to attend a movie—that this is a legal way of reaching the problem—but the Legion doesn't have a right to tell members of another church not to attend.

Brown said he shares the views of the bishops of the Episcopal Church condemning capital punishment, but disagrees with their criticism of Edgar Hoover, FBI director, although he disagrees with Hoover's support of the death penalty.

"The FBI, day in and day out, does a great job," he stated. "Even though I disagree with Hoover on this particular matter it doesn't in the slightest degree diminish my tremendous respect for him."

Dear Sirs,

I am a member of the John Birch Society which I believe is doing a fine job fighting the menace of Communism here in the United States. However some of my friends, after reading a recent editorial on the Society, are not sure of their methods. I try to assure them the Society does not use Communist tactics in their fight but some are not convinced.

Could you please inform me if an investigation of the Society has been performed by the FBI, and if so if anything detrimental to the Society was uncovered?

I have a high respect for the ability and integrity of the FBI and its director J. Edgar Hoover as I am sure many people do. Therefore, I would read very carefully anything to may have to say on this issue.

Thank you

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BRAM

Thank for let
the Subversive
Section
to handle this

100-59001-153

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 24 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

b6

b7C

1340 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles 17, California

March 24, 1961

b6

b7C

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter which was recently received by our office.

Although I would like to be of service, I wish to advise that information in FBI files is confidential and available for official use only. I would like to point out also that the FBI is strictly a fact-finding agency, and it is not within the limits of its prescribed functions to draw conclusions or make evaluations as to the character or integrity of any organization or individual.

I know you will understand the reason for these rules and will not infer that we do or do not have the information you request.

I would suggest, however, that you direct your inquiry to the Department of Justice, attention Subversive Organizations Section, Internal Security Division, Washington, D.C.

Very truly yours,

W. C.

W. C. SIMON
Special Agent in Charge

- 1 - Addressee
- 1 - LA 100-59001

:jss
(2)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/M

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED

100-59001-154

b6

b7C

Note: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Subject's name and aliases [REDACTED]		Address of subject [REDACTED]		Character of case SM - C	
Complainant [REDACTED]		Complainant's address and telephone number [REDACTED]		Complaint received <input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephonic Date <u>3-21-61</u> Time _____	
Subject's Description	Race W	Sex <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Height	Hair	Build
	Age		Weight	Eyes	Complexion
	Birth date and Birthplace				
Scars, marks or other data [REDACTED] married to [REDACTED] and is employed as [REDACTED] [REDACTED]					

b6

b7C

Facts of complaint

Compl said she was walking her baby this date and subject shouted at her "you fascist". Compl said she and husband, [REDACTED] are members of the John Birch Society and constantly argue with subject whom she described as "extremely liberal". Compl said she in the past has heard subject remark that the rich should be forced to share their wealth with the poor and wanted to know if subject is a communist.

Compl was informed of confidential nature of FBI files.

Compl was extremely emotionally upset and cried throughout the call.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

b6

b7C

Action Recommended

100-0

(Agent)

100-59001-155

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 24	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

John Birch Founder

Faces Quiz

By CARL GREENBERG
Examiner Political Editor

SACRAMENTO—The chairman of the State Senate Un-American Activities Committee announced Thursday Robert Welch, founder of the controversial John Birch Society, will be "invited" to testify after the Legislature adjourns next June.

As legislative attacks on the society mushroomed, the chairman, Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh M. Burns, D-Fresno, after wiring Welch to "keep us posted as to your whereabouts and activities," stated:

"Certainly the mere fact this is a right wing instead of a left wing organization does not clothe it with some sort of holiness which protects it from being dangerous to the country.

"Any movement, from the unbalanced right or the unbalanced left, which tears the country apart by rumor, slander, fear and doubt, must necessarily be suspect.

"We will continue our investigation. It will be thorough. It will be done in a careful, dignified manner, at a time and place where calmness and deliberation can prevail."

Paul H. Talbert, of Beverly Hills, member of the controversial group's national council, criticized the Senate for waiting until summer to start its investigation.

"Next summer, why not now?" Talbert asked, adding, "If the danger of our society is so imminent, why not start the Senate hearing now? We want to state our views now."

Other developments included:

- GOV. BROWN, who has said the society's motives should be ascertained because fascism is just as dangerous as communism," disclosed State Atty. Gen. Mosk also is investigating the society.

- ASSEMBLYMAN Gordon Winton Jr., Merced, lower house Democratic whip, introduced a resolution asking U. S. Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy to investigate the society's "organization and methods."

- THE ASSEMBLY Rules Committee set Tuesday for hearing on the Winton Resolution and another denouncing the "divisive, coercive and unAmerican activities employed by the John Birch Society and its adherents." The latter resolution was co-sponsored by the Democratic and Republican caucus chairmen and others, including Winton.

The developments, on the heels of disclosure first made by The Examiner Wednesday that Burns' committee is investigating the Society, came after Welch wired the Governor—with a copy to Burns—a "demand" for a Committee investigation.

In his wire from Belmont, Mass., Welch said:

"A dozen or a hundred or a thousand of our members in California will gladly testify and we can assure you, unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will take the Fifth Amendment."

"We will gladly cooperate with the committee in every way we can."

Burns wired back an investigation has been in progress, and that when the Legislature adjourns "you will be beyond the jurisdiction of a California legislative committee." He added:

"However, if you are still willing to appear before our

committee, we will arrange such a hearing."

But, Burns warned, committee policy is to "conduct our inquiries through staff investigation and in executive committee session in order to accomplish the greatest amount of good with the least amount of sensationalism."

In a separate telegram, the governor told Welch he indorses Burns' "proposed procedure" and that Mosk is making an "independent study." Brown wired:

"I believe the findings of these two dedicated public servants will provide a sound factual basis on which the citizens of California, including the Governor, may form their judgement about your Society's methods and aims."

In the resolution proposing Assembly condemnation of

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATE 3-24-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR *Warden Woolard*

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-SSA/ma

100-59001-156

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 24 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

the Society, it is stated a "semi-secret document" written and circulated by Welch and titled "The Politician," is replete with accusations and insinuations various men in public office are deliberately leading the United States toward communism." It also states: "It is even charged in 'The Politician' that former President Eisenhower is a dedicated Communist agent, and that former President Roosevelt was guilty of 'plain unadulterated treason' against the United States."

The resolution asserts the Society has been "unusually active" in California recently, "attacking the methods, motives and morals of those with whom it disagrees, always in the name of pure patriotism."

Sen. Burns said he felt

hearings now "would have a disruptive effect on our legislative duties," and:

"We have been investigating the Society and would continue to do so with or without the current outbreak of controversy."

"There have been allegations the Society is or could become subversive. Our investigation has not progressed to the stage where a conclusive judgment on this subject could be made."

Directing investigation is Richard Combs, Chief Counsel for the State Committee.

Welch's message to Brown was released Wednesday by Paul H. "Tex" Talbert, Beverly Hills insurance broker, Southern California leader of the group and said to be active in Republican fund-raising activities in the 16th Congressional District. He

said the society welcomes the inquiry.

Talbert declared the Society believes in "less government, more responsibility, more individual freedom, preserving and protecting our Constitution and our glorious heritage." He also said:

"We all believe in loyalty oaths, preservation of the Connally Amendment, restoration of the investigative powers of the FBI and any

other Government committee for the purpose of investigating subversion."

The Winton resolution charged the Society has "resorted to scurrilous and irresponsible attacks on various Americans in public office" and said its asserted tactics "pose real dangers to our free society."

Atty. Gen. Kennedy would be asked to determine whether the Society "and its affiliated groups" should be

listed as subversive organizations.

In a speech Wednesday, Chancellor Samuel B. Gould of the University of California at Santa Barbara, said a "new type" of secret student

group has been created on campus and "unless it is checked, can destroy the University." He said it "claims to promote Americanism, while it uses un-American methods."

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (62-0)

DATE: 3/28/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b6

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

b7C

INFO CONCERNING

b6

b7C

On 3/14/61, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] California, telephone [REDACTED] telephonically
advised as follows:

b6

b7C

He furnished the following list of names whom he
understands are allegedly connected with the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b6

b7C

[REDACTED] stated it was his understanding that the
[REDACTED] was associated with the John
Birch Society. The above-listed names were furnished to him
by [REDACTED] who learned from [REDACTED]
telephone [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] was also associated
with the [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

[REDACTED] stated that he wanted to go on record
that he is not associated with either the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or the John Birch Society.

1 - 62-0

SID:pal

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

100-59001-157

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 27 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-59001)

DATE: 3/27/61

FROM : ASAC W. M. ALEXANDER

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

b6

b7C

[REDACTED], called me at 8:30 AM, 3/23/61, and stated that he would like some information on the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.

b6

b7C

I pointed out to [REDACTED] that we were not in a position to make any comment concerning this society and that a series of articles had appeared in the "Los Angeles Times" to which he might want to refer. [REDACTED] stated he understood our position.

WMA:mmmb
(1)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

100-59001-158

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 27 1961	
FBI — LOS ANGELES	

THE DIM VIEW

Ike, Dulles Communists? That's What Welch Says

● BY MAX WIHNYK

I deplore the John Birch society, the America First movement, the Freedom club groups, all the McCarthy-like and far worse ordered rantings and ravings against Communism. They pose a menace to an intelligent battle against lessening of freedoms in American as a result of the campaign which the Kremlin admittedly wages against our way of life.

It is because I am so devoutly an anti-Communist, so determinedly pro-American, that I am outraged by organizations with dubious motives that masquerade behind a mask of patriotic sham.

There are two major evils inherent in every one of these organized and spuriously ugly burlesques of patriotic zeal.

They would curtail American liberties in their fascist way as sorely as would communists.

They waste the time, effort and money of truly good but deluded Americans who fail to realize they can't hurt and must help the enemy, within and without, by espousing causes which are no less unAmerican because they falsely, with malice aforethought, assume attributes of patriotism to seduce honest but not sufficiently suspicious Americans.

If you waste your time, your effort and your money fighting for America by aiding those who want to irreparable damage the American freedoms, then you will have none of these left to exert in honestly combatting the hidden and obvious attacks of the Reds and the others who would damage the country we properly love so well.

Not for one moment can we overestimate the potential danger of pressure, from foreign enemies and from fifth columns established within these United States. To avoid the evils they would impose on us we must be vigilant every moment to their menaces.

FALSE IDOLS

But we find ourselves, only too often, worshipping false idols in this connection, working to further programs which, if the whole truth were to be known in many instances, well may have been stimulated by the Kremlin propaganda masters themselves, to distract our attention from those of their efforts that they prefer to flourish unobserved.

I for one am content to allow the capable, well-organized, constantly alert official anti-Red apparatus to supervise this important national chore. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has long since been assigned the task of preserving America from the threats of those who would destroy the American way. The FBI needs no vigilante assistance. Mob rule, subtle or violent, hurts rather than helps in the connection.

THE LATEST

The Birch society is the latest on a long list of crassly suspicious organizations. Whatever else is uncertain, this isn't: it won't be the last. Each in turn has to be rejected by true Americans, else America itself will perish from within.

How can any man of good will with even less than reasonable intelligence follow a leader like the Robert Welch who heads this outfit. Welch is a man who lists as dangerous American Communists such unimpeachable patriots as Dwight D. Eisenhower, his noble brother Milton (listed by Welch as Ike's superior in Red ranks), both John Foster Dulles and his brother, CIA head Allen Dulles!

Let's put it this way: if the Eisenhower and Dulles families are Communists, then all hope for America has long since perished.

This is, of course, absurd, psychotic, schizoid, paranoid — else as cruelly a calculated way to try to win Americans from the cause of freedom and justice.

Our mails here already have been invaded by notes from Birch society followers from close and distant points which, after mildly accusing us here of being Communists (in the Welch book all newspapermen are exactly this), then try to win our support for the police state measures the Birch-people seek to establish in the place of the civil liberties which have made this nation the envy of the thinking world.

For God's sake, for America's, for the sake of the free world, don't get trapped into joining — do fight with all your strength and resources — these vicious parodies of patriotism. They are all the more vicious because they have, can and do trap well-meaning citizens into joining their basic lunatic-fringe numbers.

DAILY RECORD
Banning, California
March 18, 1961
ED: Max Wihnyk

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-26-90 BY SP4-SSA/JS

100-59001-159

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mm</i>	FILED <i>mm</i>
MAR 27 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

THE DIM VIEW

Why No Concern Over Neo-Fascists Groups?

• BY MAX WIHNYK

This nation doesn't seem nearly as concerned with the eternal menace to our liberties represented by communist groups as it is with the ever-present, continuously reborn movement to make this a neo-fascist or fascist state.

The would-be fascists glibly attack their antagonists with shrill and loud cries of "communist" and have in many cases been able to draw this red herring successfully across their trails, at least for a while. The KKK still rides in some sections of this fair land; it still burns fiery crosses at the homes of those who displease its vicious hierarchy.

I can find no more tolerance for those who would destroy the precious fabric of true Americanism in any other name, than I can for the communists. And I am as equally unwilling to sacrifice civil rights to the neo-fascists as I am to the communists.

Comes now the organization calling itself the Hohn Birch Society, as arrogantly a disciplined witch-hunting group as has ever been seen in these United States. The noises made by its leader a guy by the name of Robert Welch who hails from New England are far more frenzied than even Joe McCarthy and his coterie ever uttered. The Welch organization is going to be a tightly-knit closely-supervised sort of thing.

Welch is extending himself in his anti-Communist blasts far beyond the McCarthyites at their worst. Even Richard Nixon figures prominently on the Birch club list of Communists and communist dupes. Chief Justice Earl Warren, of course, is described by the Welch-Birch followers as the epitome of all dangerous radicals.

AMERICAN PILOT

John Birch, whose name has been adopted by Welch (who says he is going to build up a following of at least 1,000,000) was an American pilot said to have been the victim of a Red atrocity.

A Welch manifesto is the bible for the club which, strangely enough, seems to be using the long-since discredited Freedom Club lists for its initial membership prospects.

No uniform has yet been adopted for club members, unlike the professedly Nazi organization which has put on demonstrations during recent months in New York and Boston. This last group outfits itself in the brown attire worn by the unlamented Hitler SS.

I have heard some kind words even here in the Pass for the Birch clubs, some weeks before I was able to find anything about the clubs.

My feeling is that I'd rather try to make household pets of sidewinders than encourage the inherent brutality of such a cause as this.

WHY?

Why are there always a fairly substantial number of men of good will, as well as those whose good will is very much in doubt at all times, who are willing to accept as bona fide and worthwhile anything and everything which pretends to be either anti-Communist, pro-American or both? In truth, the label anti-Communist is used frequently for much which is equally or more so anti-American?

Hitler rose to his dubious glory and well-deserved fate on a wave of anti-Communist propaganda although the Nazi alternative couldn't possibly be accepted by an American as a valid choice for free men.

Even men chosen by a majority of our voters, our Presidents, are subject to careful checks and balances under our system of government. There cannot be elements of dictatorial total control in the United States, even during such major emergencies as times of war. And this, to use the old phrase again, is what has kept America great.

How can we then delegate absolute authority to self-selected leaders whose qualifications are at best dubious, generally suspect, at worst grossly at odds with true Americanism.

It is sickening we allow them to hypnotize us at times with their pat phrases of empty patriotism. It is sickening that we permit ourselves to be seduced to evil causes when we hear bald cant which is transparently absurd if you listen with any reason functioning!

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

DAILY RECORD
March 14, 1961
Banning, Calif.
ED: Max Wihnyk

Bufile 62-10441

FBI, Los Angeles

100-59001-160

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 27 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Birch Society Chief Asks State Probe

The founder of the John Birch Society has asked that an investigation of the organization be made by the state senate un-American activities committee.

In a telegram sent to Gov. Brown, Robert Welch demanded the investigation and added:

"A dozen or a hundred or a thousand of our members in California will gladly testify, unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will take the Fifth Amendment."

Paul H. Talbert of Beverly Hills, a John Birch member, disclosed the contents of the telegram last night.

Talbert also read a prepared statement which asked why the society was being attacked in the press.

"What is happening to cause supposedly reputable newspapers to refer to us as Fascists, neo-Fascists, Silver Shirts, Red Shirts, Black Shirts, subversives and even compare us with the Klu Klux Klan?" he asked.

Gov. Brown has asked for an official report on the group.

VALLEY NEWS AND GREEN SHEET

Date 3-26-61

Section 1, Page 8-A Col. 2
Van Nuys, California

Editor Ferdinand Mendonhall

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

Re: John Birch Society

LA file 100-59001*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

100-59001-161

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <u>Ma</u>	FILED <u>Ma</u>
MAR 28 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

John Birch Society: The Extreme Right

By GENE GISLEY
Star-Free Press Staff Writer

John Birch, a one-time China missionary and a U. S. Navy captain, was killed by Chinese Communist guerrillas after V-J Day in World War II. For most of the years since then, except for the fond recollections of his family, he has been forgotten.

But today the name John Birch is a battle-cry for an aroused band of self-styled patriots girding for a crusade against communism. The name of John Birch lends itself to this astonishing crusade as a symbol of the first American killed by the Communists in "World War III."

By this week, the John Birch Society reportedly has chapters in 35 states but its activities seem to have flowered first in California, which often has proved a fertile sprouting ground for extreme and emotional political movements.

What is this controversial society which last week found itself condemned on the floor of the U. S. Senate and which has been the subject of detailed exposure and fearful editorial comment in newspapers across the land? Who is its founder; what is its structure; what are its aims and procedures?

PAMPHLETEERING CANDYMAKER

The founder and ghostly guiding light of the John Birch Society is a benign-appearing ex-candyman named Robert Welch, 61, of Belmont, Mass.

After World War II, Welch turned his talents from candy making to a study of communism and soon developed the theory that many U. S. strides toward social betterment—including Social Security and federal income taxes—were, in reality, part of an organized campaign to prepare the nation for a Communist take-over.

By 1957, Welch was engaged in full-time anti-Communist pamphleteering. He authored a treatise on politics called "The Politician," which was shown only to close friends and which since has been withdrawn from circulation because of its alarming extremism.

By 1958, Welch was ready to organize the John Birch Society, born in Indianapolis at a meeting of about a dozen influential men who listened to the Welchian theses for two days. Welch laid the Society's foundation on slander and invective in which he:

—Accused President Eisenhower and his brother, Milton, of Communist party membership and charged that "one possible word describes (President Eisenhower's) purposes and actions. That word is treason."

—Charged the late John Foster Dulles, former secretary of state, with being a Communist agent and his brother, Allen, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, as being "the most protected and untouchable supporter of communism, next to Eisenhower himself, in Washington."

—Argued that "democracy . . . is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud."

Ventura County Star-Free Press

Ventura, Calif.

March 16, 1961

Editor: Julius Gius

Re: John Birch Society
LA file 100-59001

100-59001-166

91.0

PANDORA'S BOX of political ills has opened in California where the John Birch Society is recruiting groups of members from the radical right.

In another column on this page is a detailed discussion of the founding, structure and aims of the Society which has organized chapters in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and San Francisco. As far as we know, none exists in Ventura County.

We are genuinely concerned over the growth of this controversial Society.

To us, the unquestioning acceptance of so extreme a credo means that the age of political wisdom is not here. The prospect of another McCarthy era, in which half-truths, slander and invective replaced reason, fills us with dread. And certainly the least we can fear from the John Birch Society's success is that legitimate conservative principles will be tainted by an unfortunate association with extremism.

We would point out that we do not emulate the extremists by condemning out of hand all those persons who have shown an interest in the John Birch Society. We are aware that some members of any association do not subscribe wholeheartedly to some of its tenets and may disagree with the views of other members.

We would not want to be guilty of applying the tarbrush even to a society which seems bent on making full use of the tarbrush itself.

What we do condemn are the Society's slanders against our nation's leaders, its degradation of democracy, its secret membership rolls, its dictatorial control from the top, its denial of the right to dissent, its emotional appeal, its use of unfair methods of pressures and harassment, and its questionable, witch-hunt aims.

What, you may ask, would impel anyone to subscribe to the Society's central belief that "democracy... is a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, a perennial fraud...?"

In truth, there are many Americans who have never accepted the premise that democracy has any relevance to the American dream. Apparently feeling that there is something un-American about equality and freedom, they attempt to develop a political system based on other precepts.

Even so, they cloak themselves in righteousness, wrap themselves in patriotism, indulge in flag-waving—and cultivate a goose-step.

We have only contempt for this phony front. And we can put no faith in a society which would protect our freedoms by denying them, which would guarantee our civil liberties by revoking them, which would fight subversion by adopting the methods of subversives, or which would support the Constitution by rewriting it to authorize a witch-hunt.

Ventura County Star-Free Press

Ventura, Calif.

March 16, 1961

Editor: Julius Gius

Re: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.

LA FILE 100-59001

Is it likely that the John Birch Society can moderate its views? We dare not hope so. A decree by founder Robert Welch, that anyone who suffers disaffection will be ousted from the Society, seems to preclude that possibility.

If Welch and his views remain supreme, this extremism from the right can only take us down the road which inevitably leads to a weakening of democracy and a loss of our fundamental freedoms.

'AUTHORITATIVE CONTROL' ORDERED

Welch maintains dictatorial authority on the actions of the Society. This is set forth in his "Blue Book," the organization's bible. The "Blue Book" lays it out plain and clear:

"The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels . . . it is imperative that all the strength we can muster be subject to smoothly functioning direction from the top . . .

"We are not going to be in a position of having the Society's work weakened by raging debates. We are not going to have factions developing on the two-sides-to-every question theme.

"Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out before they build up any splintering following of their own inside the Society."

The organization's aims are shrouded in the same secrecy that masks its membership rolls. But it is known that Welch hopes to organize a Society of 1 million members, each paying dues of from \$24 to \$12 a year, for which, of course, he will be unaccountable.

Welch's principal aim, as we make it out, stems from his fear that "Communists have been and still are in control of high places in the U. S. government: The armed forces, the courts, the schools, press, radio, television and motion pictures, the unions, the church, etc." The Society intends to stamp out this Communist menace.

INFILTRATION METHOD URGED

To do this, its members are encouraged to infiltrate organizations of all kinds. From the inside, they can tell their leaders of any Communist influence in these organizations so that pressure can be brought to root out the evil.

The members can brow-beat and harass suspected teachers, boycott and pressure businessmen reluctant to join the cause, conduct telephone campaigns against individuals suspected of Red influence, take over the PTAs and raise objections to books, teachers and curricula.

"Fear not the Communists' methods," members are told. Rather, take over the Communist tactics for your own.

One of the most ambitious campaigns of the Society is the impeachment of Earl Warren, chief justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. In this move, the Society is joined by other organizations, one of which is the Citizens United for America, Inc., of Los Angeles. On our desk today is a police-type poster from this latter organization with the legend: "Wanted, Earl Warren, for impeachment," for giving comfort to the Communists in Supreme Court rulings. The same fate is set for seven of the eight other justices.

The Society has other aims, too. Among them are reduction in the size of government, increased individual responsibilities, lightening of the tax burden and building of a better world. But these aims are secondary to the Society's central theme of hunting Communists and, in fact, seem more like window-dressing than real causes.

WHITHER NOW?

Where is the John Birch Society headed? This is the basic question which only the Society's members can answer. Some of the more moderate ones may have nothing but the most worthy motives. But will they be able to bend the group into rational channels, guided by its more reasonable aims in view of the authoritative top-level control decreed by Welch?

If they cannot, we can only wonder at the Society's future. And the spirit of John Birch, too, from his sailor's grave, may ponder the future of this organization which threatens to besmirch his patriot name.

Ventura County Star-Free Press
Ventura, Calif.

March 16, 1961

Editor: Julius Gius

*Re: John Birch Society
LA file 100-59001*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

100-58001-163

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>mo</i>	FILED <i>mo</i>
MAR 29 1996	
FBI - [redacted] S <i>arm</i>	

b6

b7C

3-60-14
5-8-96
B
J
A
/
D
M

American Association for the United Nations, Inc.

Santa Barbara County Chapter

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
HERMAN W. STEINKRAUS

NATIONAL DIRECTOR
CLARK EICHELBERGER



2 WEST CARRILLO STREET
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE WOODLAND 2-2200

February 27, 1961

SANTA BARBARA CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

*Dr. Hilton P. Goss

Honorary Vice Presidents:

Honorable Louis C. Dreyfus, Jr.
Mrs. Eleanor Wilson McAdoo
Admiral Stuart S. Murray
Mrs. George Edwin Hill

1st Vice-President

*Mrs. Curtis C. Jordan

2nd Vice-President

*F. Eric Petrie

Recording Secretary

*Mrs. Ryan Miller

Corresponding Secretary

*Miss Helen F. Thomson

Treasurer

*Miss Helen Sealey

Executive Secretary

Mrs. Courtaune de Santillana

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harry S. Ashmore
Mrs. Perry G. M. Austin
Reverend Conrad Braaten
Robert Casler
*Joseph P. Cosand
Leland Crawford, Jr.
Mrs. H. B. de Mott
Mrs. Michael Dunn
Dr. Charlotte Elmore
Mrs. Frank Frost
Samuel Gerson
Mrs. William A. Glassford
Dr. Samuel B. Gould
Mrs. Chase Greene
Thomas G. Hannu
*Dr. Theodore Hunter
*L. Alan Harrison
Mrs. Robert Hibbits
Dr. Hallock Hoffman
Gilbert C. Horne
Dr. C. Norman Jacobs
*William H. Joyce, Jr.
*Lewis Kimball, Jr.
Louis Lancaster
Mrs. H. J. McMillan
Dr. Peter Merkl
Claude Morter
Mrs. Stuart S. Murray
Mrs. Elbio Newman-Perper
Mrs. Leighton Rollins
Albert B. Rudlock
Mrs. Robert M. Russell
Miss Elizabeth Scott
Elmer L. Shirrell
Mark Smith, Jr.
Sam Thomson
Ralph Vernon
Selmer O. Wake
Reverend Walter Weiss
Mrs. Samuel Wolfy
Mrs. J. B. Yager

*Members of Executive Committee

The Honorable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State
State Department
Washington, D. C.

DEAR Mr. Rusk:

I had the privilege of [redacted] Permit me to congratulate you on the high office which you now hold under our new administration. I am happy for this richly deserved recognition, and that you are a member of the top echelon.

While I never succeeded in achieving scholastic aptitude in International Relations and in gaining the rating you desired. [redacted]

Now I find that the work that I, and others like me, are trying to do in this respect is being daily misconstrued and vilified by a partially subversive rightist organization called the John Birch Society.

When I first heard about this Society I was amused because it did not seem possible that any intelligent American (certainly not any democratic American) could fall for its ridiculous precepts. Then I became alarmed when I found that personal friends had been swayed by the group's propaganda, and that others who had not been swayed were being shamelessly pressurized to the extent that untruths (which I have since verified as untrue) were being implied and whispered about them.

This group is employing Nazi/Communist tactics in discrediting every person who expresses doubt of its infallibility. These people indiscriminately curse churchmen, statesmen, educators and many other honest individuals and organizations. They do not stop with the local community, but make accusations against our former President. Right now a point of target is the Supreme Court. Santa Barbara, with its wealthy and

... population has become one of the major strongholds
of breeding grounds for this organization.

As for Foreign Relations, I am told that this
... has organized a Foreign operation, the only result of which
will be the undermining of our Administration and of the Nation's
prestige.

The role of "informing" does not appeal to me, and my
personal interests and obligations are such that I am certainly
not anxious to get involved in intrigues of any sort. However,
under the present circumstances I cannot remain passive, when
there is the threat of harm that has already been brought about
to this country by the clever ability of these people to sway
the reaction of well-meaning and well-thinking patriotic citizens.
... and is spreading in areas of national
life, and which certainly does have international implications.

I am a registered Republican; although I have always voted
for the person who, in my opinion, seemed the right person. As you know,
I am not particularly infallible in judgment. Regardless of
party, my loyalty and support will naturally be primarily with
the Administration.

In loyalty to you, our President and the Nation, I feel that
there should be a crash investigation of this "plot" and its
organizers. This is probably beyond the scope of the FBI. If
you wish to have someone from the CIA come to see me, I believe
that I can furnish him with two perfect sources for information
that would be of value to our Administration. By the same token,
once an intelligence investigator would be able to perform the
same function at the first level.

I write in sincerity, loyalty, and deep seriousness, as a
loyal American as terrified of a rightist conspiracy as I am of
the Communists.

Sincerely

b6

b7C

In reply refer to
SY:RMJ

TO : The Honorable
J. Edgar Hoover,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington 25, D. C.

FROM : William O. Boswell,
Director,
Office of Security

SUBJECT: John Birch Society

There is attached for whatever action is considered
appropriate a copy of letter to the Secretary of State from
a [redacted] dated February 27, 1961.

b6

b7C

[redacted] is protesting about an organization
known as the John Birch Society. The records of this Office
contain only a reference to the organization's letterhead
wherein it is described as consisting of a group of Americans
voluntarily joined to combat forces threatening the democratic
principles of this government. This Office will appreciate
receiving available information, or as it may be developed,
concerning this Society.

[redacted] has been informed of this referral.

Enclosure:

One (1) as stated.

b2

5-8-46

SP4-BJA/jm

b6

b7C

100-52301-164

YMC

✓

100-52301-164

62-104401

Date: March 21, 1961
To: Office of Security
Department of State
From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Subject: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Reference is made to your letter dated March 13, 1961, which enclosed a copy of a letter to the Secretary of State from [redacted] dated February 27, 1961, and which requested information concerning the John Birch Society (JBS).

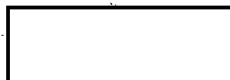
Our files disclose that the JBS was organized in Indianapolis, Indiana, in December, 1958, by Robert H. Welch, Jr., a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, in order to further Welch's anticommunist campaign. It was incorporated on December 23, 1958, as a nonprofit business organization under the laws of the State of Massachusetts. The aims and purposes of the organization were listed as to promote civic interest in national and international affairs by an educational program and the collection and dissemination of literature for educational purposes. Welch has characterized the long-range objective of the JBS as "less government, more responsibility and a better world."

In an article "The Wrong Way to Fight Reds" by Jack Mahley in the January 30, 1961, issue of the "Chicago Daily News," a Chicago, Illinois, daily newspaper, Mahley comments on Welch and the Society. Mahley states Welch,

2 - Los Angeles (Enclosures - 2) (See note on page three)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/17



b6

b7C

Office of Security
Department of State

by his own words, is absolute boss of the Society and quotes Welch as saying the Society must be run by a "hard-boiled, dictatorial and dynamic boss." Wabley sums up his article by stating the communist threat in this country is real enough; the country needs the energy and interest of every citizen who will work to counteract communist evil; but "the unbelievable irresponsibility espoused secretly by Welch can bring only scorn and harm to real anti-Communist work."

Welch authored a book entitled "The Politician," which he did not have published but had a limited number of copies printed, which he sent to friends who he believed would be interested in its contents. A review of this book disclosed it was a vicious attack on the political beliefs of former President Eisenhower and, by innuendo, alluded to President Eisenhower as being procommunist.

Welch also publishes a magazine "American Opinion," which was incorporated January 13, 1946, under the laws of the State of Massachusetts, and which he also uses as an outlet for his anti-communist crusade. As an example of the type of material which appears in "American Opinion" an article was published in the October, 1949, edition entitled "A Review of Reviews" written by Devile P. Oliver, a professor at the University of Illinois. This article contained allegations that between 70 and 80 per cent of the responsible officers in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HHS) are members or accomplices of the communist conspiracy. This appears to be a follow-up of a speech made by Oliver in March, 1949, at which time he allegedly stated that one third of the top echelon of the communist conspirators in this country are in the HHS.

b7D

Office of Security
Department of State

This Bureau has not received any information which would indicate that the activities of Welch or the JBS come within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI.



b2

ATTENTION: SAC, LOS ANGELES

Attached is a copy of the letter from the Department of State dated 3/13/61 and a copy of the letter of [redacted] to the Secretary of State dated 2/27/61.

b6

b7C

[redacted] indicates in her letter that she has additional information to furnish. Inasmuch as the Bureau was not provided a copy of the State Department's reply to [redacted] letter, you are instructed to have an agent immediately interview her, providing the files of your office do not contain information which would preclude such an interview, and advise her that our contact with her has been prompted by the referral of her letter to the FBI. Explain the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the FBI in the internal security field to her and that we are interested in any information she may have in this regard. Follow the instructions outlined in SAC Letters 59-13 (F) dated 3/10/59 and 60-5 (C) dated 1/26/60 pertaining to this organization. Immediately furnish the results of this contact to the Bureau.

Bureau indices contain no identifiable subversive derogatory information concerning [redacted] Bufiles indicate the American Association for the United Nations, Inc., (100-377086), is not an organ of the United Nations, but is an association formed to carry on educational activities to the end that the United States may cooperate to the fullest extent practicable in official international organizations functioning in the various fields of international cooperation. The FBI has never investigated the American Association for the United Nations, Inc.

b6

b7C

Birch Group Offers to Testify

Members of the John Birch Society, labeled by critics as neo-fascist and now under investigation by the State Senate Un-American Activities Committee, volunteered Wednesday to testify before the probers "by the thousand."

In a telegram to Gov. Brown earlier in the day, Robert Welch, society founder, of Belmont, Mass., offered to cooperative with the committee "in every way" and declared "un-

like our Communist enemies, none of our members will take the 5th Amendment."

The message was released by Paul H. "Tex" Talbert, Beverly Hills insurance broker and Southern California leader of the group, who said the society welcomes the State Senate inquiry.

He said the society's national council included:

Dr. Granville Knight, Santa Barbara physician; Ralph E. Davis, president, General Plant Protection Corp.; Los Angeles; Thomas J. Anderson, editor and publisher of Farm and Ranch, a Tennessee publication; T. Coleman Andrews, former commissioner of internal revenue; former Asst. Secretary of State Spruille Braden; Col. Laurence Bunker, former aide to Gen. Mac-

Arthur, and Dean Clarence Manion, Notre Dame Law School.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 3-23-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR WARDEN WOOLARD

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

*John Birch Society
LA 100-59001
CC Bureau
3/23/61
Pv*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/LM

b6

b7C

100-59001-166

SEARCHED <i>mo</i>	INDEXED <i>mo</i>
SERIALIZED <i>mo</i>	FILED <i>mo</i>
MAR 23 1961	
LOS ANGELES	

mo

MEMBERSHIP BOASTED

Hiestand Defends Birch Society

By JACK LANGGUTH

Valley Times TODAY Staff Writer

Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand (R-21st Dist.) today warmly defended the embattled John Birch Society, of which he is a member.

Interviewed by telephone, Hiestand told the Valley Times TODAY that there are many members of the society in his Congressional district, which includes San Fernando, Pacoima, Panorama City, Northridge, Reseda and the Antelope Valley.



Hiestand

But he said these are "rugged individualists" who joined a "patriotic society, that has no thought control, dictatorship or fascism."

Every aspect of the society is voluntary, "unlike labor unions," Hiestand added.

The current charges against the Birch group are "baseless," Hiestand said. But he added he doesn't "agree with everything Welch has ever said or done."

Robert Welch, Massa-

chusetts candy manufacturer and founder of the movement, reportedly once called President Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, underground communist agents.

Gov. Edmund G. Brown has asked Atty. Gen. Stanley Mosk for a report on the society but stated that unless members broke the law they have a right to speak.

Hiestand said he has been a member of the society for about 1½ years.

"I first heard about John Birch, the American medical missionary in China, who was skinned alive by the communists, from Rep. Walter Judd (R-Minn.)."

Asked if Judd is a John Birch member, Hiestand said, "I don't know but I wouldn't be surprised."

The society's one aim is to "fight the Communist conspiracy," Hiestand said. "Of course, the members also resent the growth of big, dictatorship government."

Charges against the society have been made, the Congressman added, "because every group that tries to fight Communism gets smeared."

"VALLEY TIMES TODAY," Home Edition
North Hollywood, California
Saturday, March 25, 1961
Editor - JACK BERGER
Section 1, Page 2, Columns 7-8
Los Angeles Field Division

RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Photostat to Bureau

PHOTOSTAT COPY

100 Number 1 Date 3/28/61
100-59001-167

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

ep

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/bm

WILL TESTIFY GLADLY, BIRCH FOUNDER SAYS

BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, said Wednesday that members of the organization will "gladly" testify in a proposed investigation of the organization by the California State Senate Committee on Un-American Activities.

Welch "demanded" that the investigation be held and promised that no members of the society will take the Fifth Amendment to avoid testifying.

A telegram from Welch, addressed to Gov. Brown, was released in Beverly Hills by Paul H. Talbert, member

of the Birch Society's national council.

Brown said Wednesday he asked the attorney general to make a report on the John Birch Society.

A copy of the Welch telegram was given to UPI by Talbert.

Copies of the wire to Brown were sent by Welch from his Belmont, (Mass.) home to Talbert, State Atty. Gen. Mosk and to Sen. Hugh M. Burns, chairman of the State Senate Committee on Un-American Activities.

The telegram said: "We respectfully and, in

view of statements made to press by officials of your state, we urgently demand the proposed investigation of the John Birch Society by the California State Senate Un-American Activities Committee. A dozen or a hundred or a thousand of our members in California will gladly testify and we can assure you that, unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will take the Fifth Amendment. We will gladly co-operate with the committee in every way that we can."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 3-23-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK B. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

John Birch Society
LA 100-59001

cc Bureau
3/23/61
PR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/AM

100-59001-168

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 23 1961	
LOS ANGELES	

TC

b6

b7C

59001

Demands Probe, Would 'Gladly Testify'

Birch Group 'Calls' Gov. Brown on Quiz

Officials of the John Birch Society joined today in demands for investigation of their patriotic organization, and told Governor Edmund G. Brown their members would "gladly testify" without resort to the Fifth Amendment.

In a telegram to the governor, Robert Welch, wealthy retired candy manufacturer who is founder and head of the patriotic group said:

"We respectfully and, in view of statements made to the press by officials of your state, urgently demand the proposed investigation of the John Birch Society by the California State Senate Committee on Un-American Activities.

"A dozen, or a hundred or a thousand of our members in California will gladly testify and we can assure you that, unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will take the Fifth Amendment. We will gladly co-operate with the committee in every way we can."

COPY SENT TO MOSK

Copies of the wire were sent to Atty. Gen. Stanley Mosk and to State Sen. Hugh Burns of Fresno, Senate president pro-tem and chairman of the Committee on Un-American Activities.

Paul H. Talbert, Beverly Hills insurance broker and a member of the John Birch Society, commented on Mosk's statement that he would ask the United States attorney general to "look into" the patriotic organization if the Legislature "wants me to do it."

Talbert said that "if any members take the Fifth Amendment, it will be all right because we would love to find out who the infiltrators are so we can get rid of them."

He explained that it was "possible some left wing sympathizers may have infiltrated

the society and "their refuge in the Fifth Amendment would, of course, unmask them," adding:

"We, the John Birch Society, will not picket any investigating committee that might see fit to investigate us.

"All this points up the fact that good Americans everywhere should wake up. This goes to prove how deadly our enemy is—to be able to pull off this concentrated national attack on the John Birch Society."

BELIEFS STATED

The Beverly Hills civic leader pointed out the society "believes in less government, more responsibility, more individual freedom and preservation and protection of our

Constitution and our glorious heritage."

Furthermore, he said, "we all believe in loyalty oaths, preservation of the Connally Amendment, restoration of the investigative powers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and any other government committee for the investigation of subversion."

Is it possible that we have been so deeply infiltrated that our enemy is now strong enough to try to shift the word 'subversion' from themselves over to us?" Talbert asked.

PROTEST BROWN'S ACTION

Talbert was the latest to add his voice to a growing wave of protest over Governor Brown's refusal to ban a University of California at Berkeley speech by a man accused of Communist-front activity

while calling for a probe of the John Birchers, described by United States Senator James Eastland of Mississippi as "a patriotic organization."

The protests point out the drive by California Democratic Council and others to abolish loyalty oaths, the House Committee on Un-American Activities and to secure early recognition and admission to the United Nations of Red China

County Republican Chairman Julius A. (Jud) Leetham pointed out that storm is not a partisan dispute, but added:

"It should be a subject for thoughtful contemplation that the Democratic Party, and particularly its leader in California, Governor Brown, has been in the forefront to attack either individuals or organizations whose 'conservative' views are fundamentally cast in support of our existing order.

CITES EXAMPLE

"A new example of this is the hue and cry regarding the John Birch Society, which one United States senator has described as a patriotic organization.

"Democratic, and some other cries, for investigation fill the land.

"On the other hand, we see the tragically humorous example of Governor Brown refusing to utilize his executive authority to prevent the propaganda effort of a convicted and known associate in subversive organizations

LOS ANGELES EVENING

HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 3-23-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Herbert H. Krauch

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

LA 100-59001

cc Bureau

3/23/61

PL

INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-84 BY SP4-BJH/m

b6

b7C

100-59001-169

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 23 1961	

from conducting propagand activities and directed toward influencing our youth, on state property (the UCB campus) supported in part by funds extracted from the citizens, including the so-called conservatives."

Ask U.S. Probe Birch Society

SACRAMENTO, March 23 (UPI) — A resolution asking United States Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy to investigate the ultra-conservative John Birch society was introduced in the Assembly today.

The resolution, by Assemblyman Gordon I. Winson, Democrat of Merced, charges that the society has "resorted to scurrilous and irresponsible attacks on various Americans in public office."

Birch Society Leader Asks Early Hearing

A leading member of the John Birch Society claims the group has been smeared and should have an immediate opportunity to clear the record at a legislative hearing.

After the State Senate Committee on Un-American Activities announced it will investigate the society this summer, Paul H. Talbert, Beverly Hills insurance broker, exclaimed:

"NEXT SUMMER! Why not start the Senate hearing our society is so imminent as some people have said, why not start the Senate hearings now? We want a chance to state our views now.

"Why not hold the hearing in the cool of the spring instead of waiting for the heat of the summer?"

The investigation was requested by the society's founder, Robert H. Welch of Boston.

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 3-24-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR ARTHUR LARO

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

100-59001-170

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 24 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Birch Society Has No Active West End Unit

ONTARIO-UPLAND — Reports from authoritative sources indicated today that there is no active unit of the John Birch Society functioning in the West End.

These sources include two women who acknowledge they subscribe to membership in what is known the "home chapter" in Belmont, Mass.

One of the women, Mrs. Pat Hendersen of 1182 N. Vallejo Way, Upland, said as far as she knows the society has no chapter functioning in this area.

She said she is acquainted with three local residents who belong to the home chapter in Belmont. Speaking enthusiastically of the nationwide organization, Mrs. Hendersen said:

"I feel it's a very fine organization. I don't know much about it yet, but I'd like to learn more. I don't think it's a Fascist organization. I think it only wants to combat communism."

Mrs. Hendersen said she only joined the society recently and that her husband is not a member.

She said she and her husband felt she should join first because dues for women are only \$12 a year and her husband would join later when they were better able to afford the \$24 yearly assessment for men's membership.

The second woman asked that

Birch Society Has No Active West End Unit

(Continued from Page A-1)

her identification be withheld. She said she is certain there is no local unit of the John Birch Society in the West End.

She said she holds membership at large in the national organization headquartered in Belmont, Mass.

"All this adverse publicity has come up since I joined," she said. Numerous stories on the John Birch Society and its aims have been published in national publications and metropolitan daily newspapers.

Considerable controversy has stemmed from these news stories.

"I think we're going to have to do something about the high level of Communism infiltration in the United States," she said. "I read a story this morning saying that 70 per cent of the people in the United States government are Communists."

In asking that her identity be withheld, the woman explained she felt "I can do more good" by maintaining anonymity.

The Daily Report
212 East B St.
Ontario, Calif.

Mrs. Jerene Appleby
Harrish - Publisher

3-26-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/KM

100-59001-172

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

gjt

LETTER TO BROWN

Birch Society Probe Opposed

The American Civil Liberties Union said today it opposes any investigation of the John Birch Society by Congress or the Legislature.

Such an investigation would violate the First Amendment rights of the ultra-right-wing organization, said Eason Monroe, ACLU executive director, in a letter to Governor Brown.

Leaders of the society, including founder Robert Welch, have welcomed such an investigation and offered to testify.

"The right of all citizens to hold and to advocate their political views, regardless of how extreme and distorted these views may be, is inviolate," said Monroe.

"Only a showing that the advocacy of such views constitutes a 'clear and present danger' that unlawful acts will be committed would justify a restraint upon the speech or assembly of the John Birch Society."

The ACLU would oppose any investigation of the society either by the House Committee on Un-American Activities or the State Senate Committee on Un-American Activities. Such investigations would serve no valid legislative purpose, Monroe said.

Monroe noted the ACLU has "suffered considerably" at the hands of the Birch Society, mainly in Orange County where a movement to recall an ACLU member, Joel S. Dyorman, from Magnolia District School Board, is "apparently inspired by Birch Society members."

"VALLEY TIMES TODAY," Home Edition
North Hollywood, California
Monday, March 27, 1961
Editor - JACK BERGER
Section 1, Page 3, Columns 3-4
Los Angeles Field Division

RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFO CONCERNING
LA File 100 - 59001 *

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

100-59001-123

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>mo</i>	FILED <i>mo</i>
MAR 29 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Com

The John Birch Story

Recent exposure of the John Birch Society in the Los Angeles Times and Time Magazine raises some interesting questions for education.

Described as a radical organization of the Far Right, the organization has been termed subversive, just as has the radical organization of the left, the Communist Party. The danger lies not with what members of such organizations believe, but with the means by which they hope to convince others to accept the beliefs as law. John Birch Society, for example, labels anyone with whom it does not agree, a communist. Among those so labelled have been the past President of the United States, other high government officials, and editors of most of the nation's newspapers.

Such accusations might be laughable, were it not for the seriousness that many of their accusations have been received by some civic, professional, and business groups who have been taken in by the super-patriotic approach of the Society.

Operating much as the Communist Party has been known to operate, the John Birch Society urges its members to split into "cells," to infiltrate political parties, and and "take over" PTA's.

One of the opponents of Mary Tinglof, in the coming Board election, has as her finance chairman a member of the Southern California council of the discredited John Birch Society. Just as we would not vote for a member of the Communist Party, so we should be fearful of putting a member of the John Birch Society on the board. If we value our freedom as teachers we will do everything we can to re-elect Mary Tinglof at the primaries on April 4.

"THE UNION TEACHER,"

Vol. 13, No. 6 - April 1961

Official publication of Local 1021,
American Federation of Teachers,
4949 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles
Editor - EDWARD A. IRWIN
Editorial Page - Page 2, Column 1
Los Angeles Field Division

RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
LA File 100 - 59001 *

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m



100-59001-174

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 29 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

b6

b7C

AIR-TEL

3/29/61

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-59001)
SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Re letter from the Director, FBI to the Office of Security, Department of State, captioned "JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY)" dated 3/21/61.

SA [redacted] contacted [redacted]

[redacted] California, for an appointment about 10:30 a.m., 3/25/61. She advised that she was very confused and stated that she would call back to advise when it would be convenient to see Agent. At approximately 11:00 a.m. [redacted] called and stated that Agent could call on her at 2:00 p.m., 3/25/61.

At 2:00 p.m. SA [redacted] called on [redacted]. She advised that she was emotionally upset and distraught to the point where she was unable to talk to Agent. For this reason she had asked her friend, a [redacted] to meet with her and explain what she had in mind. While awaiting [redacted] the Bureau's jurisdiction and responsibility in the internal security field were explained to [redacted]. She stated that her concern was over events which have been happening in Santa Barbara, California, which have been causing the people to become suspicious of each other. She mentioned the speeches made in Santa Barbara recently by [redacted]. She stated that she considers them rabble rousers. At this point [redacted] arrived, whereupon [redacted] stated that he could explain what she had in mind. [redacted] was advised of the Bureau's responsibilities in the security field.

3 - Bureau (AM - REGISTERED)
1 - Los Angeles

RLM:CEA
(4)

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m 59001-175

LA 100-59001

[redacted]
[redacted]
is employed as [redacted]

b6 He stated he is quite
b7C concerned over the furor which the John Birch Society is causing in Santa Barbara. He stated the local paper in Santa Barbara had editorialized against the John Birch Society which resulted in a division of thought in the Santa Barbara community. Several months ago he attended a gathering where a tape by ROBERT WELCH, described as the founder of the Society, was heard. [redacted] stated WELCH practically accused President EISENHOWER of being a communist and spoke in high tones of the quality of the government in the Dominican Republic.

b6 Later [redacted] wrote a letter to the "Santa Barbara News-Press" denouncing the John Birch Society. As a result
b7C of the publication of this letter, several calls were made to [redacted] California, by unidentified persons calling [redacted] a "dirty communist" and asking questions such as "what are you going to do about it." He stated he considers this an insidious attack in an attempt to get his job because of his open objection to what he considers a completely wrong method of fighting communism.

b6 [redacted] stated that he has worked for [redacted]
b7C [redacted]
[redacted] and believes that he has a background of being anti-communist as well as anti-Fascist that should satisfy even the severest critic.

b6 [redacted] continued, stating that "the John Birch Complex" should be watched as a possible silver shift type
b7C organization. He stated that the Director of the FBI should be advised that "while passing under cover of anti-communist, the John Birch complex is using his name and a stable of retired FBI men as covers for their meetings." He mentioned specifically [redacted] HERBERT PHILBRICK and [redacted]
[redacted] The John Birch Society is encouraging the reading of anti-communist literature put out by the Director of the FBI as well as his book "Masters of Deceit." They are showing the films "Operation Abolition" and "Communism on the Map," all of which has as its objective the lending of dignity to their organization and of confusing the people as to their true purpose. [redacted] stated in this connection that he has no objection to the Director's book and that he intends to

LA 100-59001

read it himself some day. The John Birch complex is a rebirth of all the worst aspects of the MC CARTHY era, except that this is worse because it has a brain behind it. He felt that the Director must avoid becoming a tool of the John Birch complex.

b6

b7C

[redacted] continued that in Santa Barbara a [redacted]
[redacted]
"brainwashed" him for an hour concerning the communist threat to our schools and churches. [redacted] is a tool of the John Birch Society by [redacted] a sheet called "The Freedom Press." [redacted]
[redacted] is spreading the John Birch line. The Santa Barbara Speakers Forum is part of the John Birch Society (JBS) and is bringing to Santa Barbara such speakers as [redacted] and the like.

b6

b7C

Concerning [redacted]
[redacted] stated that [redacted]
[redacted]

b6

b7C

Both [redacted] and [redacted] are known to SAs [redacted] and [redacted] as being strongly anti-communist and who have stated that although they are not members of the JBS, they do approve of its anti-communist aims. [redacted]

[redacted]

b6

b7C

[redacted] stated that one of his chief sources of information in this connection is [redacted]
[redacted]

LA 100-59001

b6

b7C

[redacted] stated that what he has to say could be summed up by saying that in his opinion "the John Birch complex" is causing lack of faith in democratic principles and is as great a threat to this country as communism.

[redacted] stated she thinks that what [redacted] has said sums up her opinions on this subject.

b6

b7C

Neither [redacted] nor [redacted] asked any specific question concerning the John Birch Society; therefore, no statements were volunteered.

The indices of the Los Angeles Office contained no information of a derogatory, subversive nature regarding [redacted]

Note: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Subject's name and aliases b6 b7C		Address of subject		Character of case IS-C	
Complainant [REDACTED]		Complainant's address and telephone number [REDACTED]		Complaint received <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal <input type="checkbox"/> Telephonic Date 3-30-61 Time 3:30 PM	
Subject's Description	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Height	Hair	Build
	Age		Weight	Eyes	Complexion
	Scars, marks or other data				

Facts of complaint

Complainant advised that he is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He stated that he is also
a [REDACTED] He
requested information re the John Birch Society and was told
that the FBI does not provide evaluations re the integrity of
any organization but that he might direct a written inquiry to
the Internal Security Division, U.S. Dept. of Justice, etc. to
obtain a copy of the Attorney General's List of Subversive
Organizations.

It is noted, however, that during the course of the conversation,
Complainant mentioned one [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Complainant
stated that he has often questioned [REDACTED] ideas re Communism.
Complainant went on to say that [REDACTED] is actually [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] which course deals
with Communism and related subjects. Complainant stated that in
his opinion, [REDACTED] is a "consistent ultra-liberal" and has shown
a defeatist attitude toward Communism.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-86 BY SP4-CJA/DT

Action Recommended

b6

b7C

100-440000-176
MLO 4/1/61

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date

Subject

b6

Alias

b7C

Address

Birth Date

Birthplace

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exact Spelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal Case Files Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Restrict to Locality of _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All References | <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal References Only | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Subversive Case Files Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subversive References Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References) | |

File & Serial Number

Remarks

File & Serial Number

Remarks

*many crim. + subv. *'s + refs.*

b6

b7C

*many crim. + subv. *'s + refs.*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/M

Requested by

Squad

Extension

File No.

Searched by

Consolidated by

Reviewed by

File Review Symbols

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| I - Identical | ? - Not identifiable |
| NI - Not identical | U - Unavailable reference |

HELEN SULLIVAN
100-59001

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

SAC LETTER NO. 61-14
March 21, 1961

(D) THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS) -- SAC Letter 59-13 (F), dated March 10, 1959, set out background data concerning Robert H. Welch, Jr., a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, and his anticommunist campaign. SAC Letter 60-5 (C), dated January 26, 1960, advised that in December, 1958, Welch created an organization called "The John Birch Society," the long-range objective of which has been summarized as "less government, more responsibility, and a better world."

Recently, a printer in Santa Barbara, California, advised he had received an order from JBS to print 10,000 copies of my poster, "What You Can Do To Fight Communism." The JBS also requested the printer to print an addition on the poster to the effect that this statement was being distributed under the auspices of the JBS. We have advised the printer that the FBI has not given approval for JBS to reproduce the poster nor could the FBI approve of the addition to the poster reflecting its distribution by JBS.

In view of this irresponsible organization's attempt to capitalize on the FBI's prestige, no Bureau publications of any kind are to be made available to JBS or to any of its representatives. You should be alert to the possibility that this group may attempt to reproduce Bureau publications and distribute them giving the impression that the FBI sanctions JBS. Immediately advise the Bureau of any such information coming to your attention. Further, any requests by JBS to reproduce Bureau publications should be turned down.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

100-59001-177

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>lm</i>	FILED <i>lm</i>
MAR 22 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

JS

JOHN BIRCH GROUP SPURNS CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION AID

An official of the ultraconservative John Birch Society said today the anti-Communist group wants no help from the American Civil Liberties Union.

Paul H. Talbert, noting the ACLU planned to oppose any investigation of the society by a California Senate committee, said the group was unimpressed by the "gratuitous and unsolicited concern" of the ACLU.

"We have been vilified and smeared beyond description and are prepared to state the principles and purposes for which we stand at any time or any place," he said.

"We will not invoke the constitutional provision against self-incrimination as so many of the clients of the ACLU are prone to do," he said.

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 3-29-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Arthur Laro

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

*John Birch Soc.
LA 100-59001*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

*CC Bureau
3/29/61
PL*

100-59001-128

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 29 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Redacted Box]

b6

b7C

Letters to the Editor

John Birch Society Probe

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which I wrote to Sen. James Eastland of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, expressing my views concerning an investigation into the John Birch Society.

I feel that the public is being hoodwinked into believing that there is something wrong with the Birch Society.

If you could bring to public attention the facts that we are a patriotic organization, that we have nothing to hide, and that we would welcome an investigation, I would feel that you had done us a great service.

WILLIAM C. WILBUR JR., Torrance.

Following is the letter to Senator Eastland:

THE HONORABLE
JAMES O. EASTLAND,
Senate Office Building,
Dear Senator Eastland:

As a member of the John Birch Society, I would like to express my appreciation to you and your committee for your favorable comment on the Society.

As you know, we are the target of increasing pressure from the same elements that so vociferously oppose your committee, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and any other group that becomes effective in the fight against the Communist conspiracy.

In recent weeks, Governor Brown of California has made mention several times of an investigation of the John Birch Society.

Since I seriously doubt the ability of the governor and of our attorney general to be objective on this matter, and, since the John Birch Society is a national, rather than local organization, I feel that any investigation should be conducted by a group with national responsibility, such as your committee.

I would welcome such an investigation.

Given the opportunity and the privilege of testifying in such an investigation, I would answer all questions truthfully and completely, to the limit of my knowledge.

In conclusion, I offer my congratulations and my whole hearted support to you and your committee, for the great job you have been doing in ferreting out those who would lead us into a Communist slave-state.

Respectfully Yours,

WILLIAM C. WILBUR JR.

Mexican-American Veterans

I think the attitude of the John Birch Society in not only welcoming an investigation of its activities and leaders but actually demanding such, is commendable and I only wish those organizations which call

themselves liberal, progressive and so forth would follow the example of the John Birch Society.

I personally belong to one organization, the American G. I. Forum—a national group made up mostly of veterans of Mexican ancestry and their families.

While I do not claim to speak for my organization, I am sure that we, if asked, would welcome an investigation as to the aims of this group, the backgrounds of its leaders, etc.

JOHN M. RAMOS.

Patriotic Holidays

It was nice of you to print the editorial, "Why Not Honor Them" and the names of the school board members who are for and against banning Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday, Veterans' Day and Admission Day as school holidays, especially with election day right around the corner.

I, for one, will keep the names on my list for future reference.

MRS. ROBERT MILLS, Canoga Park.

Wilkinson's UC Talk

It was very gratifying to read your editorial about Frank Wilkinson. Thank goodness we have one newspaper in Los Angeles that has enough "guts" to tell the truth.

Governor Brown has done this state more harm than any one person I know of.

His stand on Frank Wilkinson and his kind has opened the door to all of our schools, the one place so important to world conquest by the Communist party.

If he had at least made an attempt to prevent Frank Wilkinson from speaking, he never would have been criticized for it. That is, other than by the Civil Liberties Union.

His actions on other matters should be remembered come next election. His very weak narcotic bill is a good indication that we need someone who understands the problems we are faced with.

HENRY BENT, Reseda.

Says There's Difference

As an Oriental, I would like to straighten up many mistakes regarding the difference between the Chinese and Japanese. I went to what was called a Japanese garden. A Japanese teahouse, with Japanese settings, but what else? A Chinese girl with a Chinese gown!

To me, this whole picture was ruined and completely fake! There is a difference in manner, speech, dress, living, names, appearance and food. A Japanese garden with a Chinese girl is like Alice lost in Wonderland!

HITOSHI YAMESHOTO.

LOS ANGELES EVENING

HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 3-29-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Herbert H. Krauch

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-GS/MSJ

b6

b7C

100-59001-129

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 23 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

A View of the News

George Todt's Opinion

"Methinks thou dost protest too much!"—SHAKESPEARE.

The weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth by the "Liberal" enemies of the beleaguered John Birch Society has suddenly assumed proportions across the length and breadth of the land, and perhaps we should wonder why.



Todt

What are these people accused of doing, anyway?

They have banded together to fight socialistic Communism, a termite disease which threatens to destroy the American Republic and its productive free enterprise way of life. This is bad?

The detractors of the JBS hasten to assure us that they, too, are against the philosophy of Communism. They merely deplore the "methods" which the society uses, or advocates. An old story!

Double Talk...

When asked what we ought to do to resist the international Communist conspiracy to dominate the world, the so-called liberals never quite seem to have a plan. But we hear a lot of double-talk.

"Just be good, complacent little Americans," they tell us. "Above all, don't do a thing that our implacable enemies are doing to us. Just smile and take it. Show the world that we are so strong that nothing—absolutely nothing!—can disturb us. That is the way to win!" (But for which side?)

Frankly, the one-word reply of General Anthony McAuliffe to the Nazis in the Battle of Bastogne during World War II is most appropriate here.

And that one word was "Nuts!"

Actually, we have had the pants beaten off us during the last 15 years by the highly competent and effective Red leadership — and they are now winning the battle for a planet, not us.

A Cement Block!

Complacency! Apathy! Incompetence! Those are the three greatest enemies of the American people today.

veritable albatrosses about our collective necks. Without them we could give the Reds the short shrift they deserve—and much quicker than might be imagined by most of us!

Since the end of the second world war, the forces of Liberalissimo in the United States have ridden tall in the saddle. In the main, they have called most of the signals. Where are the victories? What kind of ideological leadership have we had to be in the sorry position in which we now find ourselves? Why should the mightiest nation on earth be a potential loser?

Be a Hawk...

The main reason I am disgusted with the leadership provided by Liberalissimo is because it has managed to turn certain victory into defeat, order into chaos, hope into despair. It just cannot win!

To my way of thinking, leadership is only valid for a people as long as it can win for them. There is no other excuse. Whenever our leaders fail to win—or even when they don't win fast enough!—it is time to call for new leadership.

The ideological leadership of Liberalissimo is bankrupt and we are now dangerously close to the abyss of neutralism, appeasement and surrender.

We have no real choice left to us except to fight realistically against Marxist Communism in all its phases — at home and abroad! No more shadow-boxing, please!

The Reds only accomplish diplomatic agreements with us in order to make suckers of those who foolishly trust them. What do we gain by playing their deadly game?

Why make a treaty in the first place with a liar who will break his word as soon as it may profit him to do so?

The John Birch Society is basically designed to ultimately wrest the ideological leadership in the United States away from bumbling, inept Liberalissimo and return it to conservative fountainheads closer to the people.

Americans, by and large, are still overwhelmingly conservative and closely

wedded to the principles of the founding fathers of our republic—based on the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and The Bill of Rights. They believe in our free enterprise system.

Close the Lock!

But the unimaginative forces of Liberalissimo—led by the Americans for Democratic Action and their friends—would appear to have their hearts set on leading us into a Social Laborite government of the demoralizing type inflicted upon Great Britain from 1945-50 by Clement Attlee and Aneurin Bevan.

Fabian Socialism would have proved an even worse calamity than it did for our English cousins except for the fact that the American taxpayer was required by the Truman administration to contribute literally billions for its upkeep. This

LOS ANGELES EVENING

HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 3-29-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Herbert H. Krauch

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/M

b6

b7C

100-59001-180

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 29 1961	
LOS ANGELES	

deadly lesson ought not to be lost upon us now!

The liberals presently perceive the massive threat posed to them by the JBS and are pulling out all the stops to discredit it—mainly through innuendo, emotion and hysteria to date. Strictly “stampeding the mob” kind of action, definitely not in the spirit of Voltaire. How come?

Let's not buy a bill of goods from those with axes to grind!



[Redacted]

b6

b7C

3/27/61.

Attn: [Redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation -
Santa Barbara, Cal.

[Redacted]

b6

b7C

Dear

To add to the matter we discussed Saturday, the telephone tapes may be of interest. On [Redacted]

[Redacted] was boosting the Nyasa day lecture to be held this Tuesday under the Speakers Forum. [Redacted] the voice of [Redacted]

[Redacted] was attacking the appointment of Wilbur Cohen to the post of assistant director of H.E.W. You may find it worthwhile to record the latter. I am reporting it to Secretary Ribicoff.

It was a pleasure to talk with you. I am aware that you will be checking my references in other regards.

Sincerely yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-86 BY SP4-BDM/00

[Redacted]

100-57001-18

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1961	

b6

b7C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES

DATE: 3/29/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Reference is made to letter to the Bureau dated 3/28/61 reflecting result of interview with [REDACTED]

The attached letter from [REDACTED] apparently has to do with that interview. The [REDACTED] referred to is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who is known to both SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as a thoroughly loyal citizen who is assisting heavily with his personal fortune in combating Communism by sponsoring such speaker [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and others. He is not a member of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY according to his own statement to SA [REDACTED] on 3/29/61.

He has tape recordings which may be heard by dialing [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a [REDACTED]

of the JBS.

[REDACTED] meaning in his concluding statement is not known: "I am aware that you will be checking my references in other regards."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

100-59001-182

271

Charge 'Stalling' by Brown

Birch Chiefs Demand Quiz

Collapse of Assembly attacks on the John Birch Society, which reportedly "evaporated today without so much as a hiss," brought new demands from the patriotic organization's leaders here for immediate investigation.

The attack on the society collapsed when two resolutions condemning the organization apparently died in the Assembly Rules Committee in Sacramento yesterday.

Beverly Hills insurance broker Paul H. (Tex) Talbert, a member of the Birch Society's national council, promptly renewed demands for an immediate "and adequate" investigation in which Birch Society members will willingly and freely testify without seeking refuge in the Fifth Amendment.

FIGHT ON REDS

Talbert said the Society "welcomes an investigation now," adding:

"We have only one aim, and this is to enlist every loyal American in an all-out fight against the spread of Communism and Communist infiltration into the life stream of the United States."

Governor Edmund G. Brown and State Sen. Hugh Burns both sought investigation of the society, Talbert pointed out, "but they went off half-cocked, and when they found out the true purpose of our patriotic organization they backed away and are now stalling and trying to put it off until after the Legislature recesses."

Talbert also lashed out at an American Civil Liberties Union statement against a probe of the John Birch Society, which ACLU said would be a violation of the rights of liberty and free speech.

CALLED 'SMOKE SCREEN'

"This is just another smoke screen," Talbert asserted, "thrown up because the ACLU knows an investigation of us would show only that we are in the forefront in the fight against such organizations as theirs, which consistently defend Communists."

The Beverly Hills man also blasted Atty. Gen. Stanley Mosk's recent set of "six rules" to determine whether an organization is subversive, and Mosk's asserted grouping of the Birch Society with other "right wing extremists," charging:

"The attorney general already has grouped our Society with such organizations as the American Nazi Party, Communists, the Ku Klux Klan, Cinema Educational Guild and the Black Muslim movement."

"This seems irresponsible conduct for a state official who is conducting an investigation on which he expects to report to the governor."

"This is the worst type of finding a patriotic organization guilty, by association, before any hearing of any kind is held."

"Although he (Mosk) makes charges, he refuses to disclose his findings or even hint at the conclusions he will present to the governor, except through such smear statements as this."

session to a larger committee room.

Then, suddenly... Committee chairman Augustus F. Hawkins, Democrat of Los Angeles, told a reporter that he was going to suggest the two resolutions be withdrawn.

Hawkins spoke to both authors—Assemblymen Gordon I. Winton, Democrat of Merced, and John A. O'Connell, Democrat of San Francisco—and then announced the committee hearing was postponed indefinitely.

O'Connell's measure—introduced last Wednesday with bi-partisan co-authors—would put the lower chamber on record as disapproving of the Birch group.

LEGION ASKS ACTION

Meanwhile, State Comdr. John R. Hann of the American Legion also called for prompt congressional investigation of the Birch group "so the public may competently decide whether to support or reject" the conservative organization.

Hann pointed out "there has been much public discussion of the John Birch Society," but added that "apparently little is really known about it."

Congressional probe which would "show its true purposes, its manner of operation and its source of finances is in the public interest and should be commenced at once to ward off unnecessary and uninformed public discussion of the society until its true nature is known," Hann said.

The Lower Chamber Rules Committee had set the stage for a full dress hearing on two resolutions attacking the right wing group, and had even investigated the possibility of moving its bi-weekly

LOS ANGELES EVENING

HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 3-30-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR HERBERT H. KRAUCH

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

John Birch
Soc.

LA 100-59001

cc Bureau

3/30/61

PL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/AM

100-59001-183
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

MAR 30 1961

DELES

b6
b7C

Assembly Drops Birch Inquiry

Mirror Sacramento Bureau

SACRAMENTO—The Assembly has dropped plans to investigate the John Birch Society, although the Senate Committee on Un-American Activities plans to take a look at it this summer.

The Rules Committee of the lower house Wednesday "postponed indefinitely" the planned inquiry when chairman Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Los Angeles) admitted there were insufficient votes to get the resolution out of committee.

Robert Welch, founder and head of the society, who has been demanding an investigation of his group, will address the Freedom Club of the First Congregational Church in Los Angeles at Shrine Auditorium on April 11 at 8 p.m.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 3-30-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR ARTHUR LARO

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BTH/WM

b6

b7C

100-57001-184

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <u>MA</u>	FILED <u>MA</u>
MAR 30 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Redacted Box] 951

A View of the News

George Todt's Opinion

"Truth forever on the scaffold. Wrong forever on the throne."
—LOWELL, The Present Crisis.

Once again the forces of Liberalissimo are treating the American people to their clarion call of "Wolf! Wolf!"

Not so long ago it was with reference to the so-called "missile gap." Now it is the conservative John Birch Society.



Todt

A large number of citizens are already gagging at the emotional hysteria of the liberals as they "view with alarm" this small group of constitutional anti-communists. Why?

Seldom before has there been such a determined brand of name-calling as evidenced now on the American scene.

We ought to be ashamed of ourselves.

When You Say...

Unbiased and unpredjudiced investigation of the John Birch Society reveals that the members are anti-communist, anti-fascist, definitely not anti-Semitic and pro-Constitutional to the nth degree.

Why try to railroad a society such as this one?

We can stipulate that the founder of the JBS does not seem to rate three recent Presidents highly because of their failure to stem effectively the Communist advance throughout the world. Is this a crime?

I, personally, have admired the last three Presidents — Republican and Democrat. My work indicates that much. All were my Commanders-in-Chief in the past while I was a young officer in the United States Army.

I would never speak ill of any of them.

But our Republic has long been spoken of as the one place in the world where a man may have his honest disagreements with anyone — including the President, himself. Do we really mean it?

One Is Vile...

It appears to me that Robert Welch, founder of the JBS, felt that our leadership in the highest brackets has not done enough to stem the Communist onslaught

against us in the past 20 years.

He has raised his own particular brand of hell on this subject. The dramatic shock of his approach has focused much attention upon a matter all too many of us piously deplore — and do nothing constructive about!

It is not enough any longer that we adopt mere poses or spout wishful thinking to try to get the necessary job done.

We must not be lulled to sleep by such a fallacious approach to our problems.

The only things that count any more are results!

The people of the United States know that they don't want the slave ideology of Communism fastened upon us, or our allies throughout the world. We must fight, if necessary, for our freedom.

We must charge our leadership, regardless of political affiliation, with accomplishing desired results — or we must get rid of that inept brand of leadership. We must pay off on results, alone.

American Way...

The John Birch Society is dedicated to the proposi-

tion of exposing mistakes made by any group on the national scene — and then requesting the American people to take action. They propose to do this by constitutional and legal means. Such as letter-writing and working within the established Republican and Democratic political parties.

Actually, they are hardly more than an answer of sorts to the Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) who have been on the national scene for a generation.

Although one may not agree with the socialistic tenets of ADA philosophy or ideology, it would not be fair to call them vituperative names and suggest that they were alien totalitarians inimical to our way of life.

Yet this is exactly what some of their people are doing now to the young John Birch Society! How fair can we get?

I am not a member of the JBS but I dislike seeing it given slanted "hit-and-run" treatment.

Now the liberals are say-

LOS ANGELES EVENING

HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 3-31-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Herbert H. Krauch

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m
CC BJA/m
3/21/61
PL.

100-59000-185

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1961	
LOS ANGELES	

b6
b7C

ing that after they have dumped their unfair innuendos and garbage on the society—even calling for an investigation by the House Un-American Activities Committee and other bodies of inquiry!—they really don't want such an informative investigation, after all. Also, after telling a large TV audience the Birchers were guilty of Fascism, they should not be given a public hearing. How un-American can we get?

Calls For Trial!

The specious reasons given us are that they don't want the JBS to have its day in court for fear it would "propagandize" the issues.

How quaint! The liberals knew all along that their fantastic charges were apt to be repudiated if open hearings were later to be held. They knowingly made their vicious attacks against JBS—but now whine that they don't want the American people to hear immediately the correct answers by their opponents.

Let's be fair and allow both sides to be heard. Robert Welch, JBS founder, will be in Los Angeles next week. I suggest he be heard by the people. Let your own eyes and ears be the judge. Don't buy false rumors!

Rep. Rousselot Hails Probe

SAN MARINO, Calif., March 31 (UPI)—Rep. John H. Rousselot, Republican of California, admitting he is a member of the John Birch Society, said today he would welcome investigations of the organization to clear up misconceptions about it.

"That is true; I am a member of the John Birch Society. The reason I joined—I joined last fall—is that in my area the societies I know of are basically study groups, not arm-waving people who run around harassing others," Rousselot told United Press International.

"I think that full and clear hearings on both the national and state level should be held so that the mysticism of the society—the cloak of darkness—can be cleared up," he added.

LOS ANGELES EVENING

HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 3-31-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR HERBERT H. KRAUCH

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/KM

b6

b7C

100-57001-186

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1961	

951

Note: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Subject's name and aliases [Redacted]		Address of subject [Redacted]		Character of case SM-X b6 b7C	
Complainant		Complainant's address and telephone number		Complaint received <input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephonic Date 3/10/61 Time 6:45pm	
Subject's Description	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Height	Hair	Build
	Age		Weight	Eyes	Complexion
	Scars, marks or other data b6 b7C				
Birth date and Birthplace					

Facts of complaint

[Redacted] said he was calling from OXWARD. He wanted to talk to agents in Ventura concerning "JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY". He would not give info over phone. He requested names of agents in Ventura office, indicating that "some agents may not be acceptable to (his) information". Effort was made to determine what info [Redacted] wanted to report to no avail. He said he would try to reach Ventura RA Saturday or Monday 3/11, 3/13.

C appeared aggressive and somewhat antagonistic for record purposes.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/bm

100-59001-187

Non Recommended Route Ventura RA for info

File 100-0

100-59001

(Agent)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES ~~(62-0)~~

DATE: 3/27/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 3/13/61, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] California, furnished

the following information:

b6

[REDACTED] stated he is employed as [REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED] predicated his remarks by stating he had been requested to contact the FBI by a friend, another government employee, who has held responsible positions in the foreign service of the United States, but who did not want to make his identity known because of fear of losing his present job. [REDACTED] stated, however, that while this information comes from this undisclosed source, he himself feels that due to the pictorial methods of operation, the John Birch Society should be considered a subversive and dangerous organization and that when high military officials get involved in such an organization, something should be done.

[REDACTED] advised that his source, who has contact with the Santa Barbara, California chapter of the John Birch Society, desired that it be brought to the attention of this Bureau that the following

[REDACTED] have connections with and are supporters of the John Birch Society: (1) [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

[REDACTED] stated that it is his personal knowledge that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated if desired he could

JEK:LAL

(2)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

100-59001-188

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

812

LA 62-0

document the use of [REDACTED]

(2) [REDACTED]

b6

[REDACTED] is also a

b7C

supporter of the John Birch Society. (3) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is also

active in the John Birch Society: (4) His source also feels that [REDACTED] is "pushing" the John Birch Society.

b6

[REDACTED] stated inasmuch as this information, excepted as indicated above, comes from his undisclosed source, he could not furnish any specific details. He did advise that his source has written to Chief Justice WARREN of the United States Supreme Court regarding his concern about the John Birch Society.

b7C

b6

[REDACTED] was advised that this bureau has investigative jurisdiction in the matters involving internal security; that we would receive any information he might have which he considers to be pertinent to the internal security of the United States, however, we do not furnish any information regarding the status of a given organization or whether or not that organization is considered to be subversive

b7C

John Birch Society Aide Invites Probe

A Los Angeles spokesman for the John Birch Society said today it would welcome an investigation into its activities as proposed by Sen. Thomas Kuchel, Republican whip in the U.S. Senate.

Kuchel on Thursday denounced the anti-Communist group as "outrageous" and called for a Senate investigation. He was joined in the demand by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.).

Kuchel accused Robert Welch, head of the semi-secret society, of "fantastic and incredible libel" for accusing President Eisenhower

of being a "card-carrying Communist."

Paul H. (Tex) Talbert, Beverly Hills insurance man and a member of the society's national council, told The Mirror:

"THIS IS ABOUT the first time Kuchel has ever said anything with which I can agree—that is, to have the John Birch Society investigated by anybody, anywhere, any time.

"As long as Kuchel has seen fit to denounce the society, I hereby denounce him for statements made strictly from ignorance.

"There is nothing in the Blue Book (the society's guide) that warrants any statement that we have denounced former President Eisenhower as a 'card-carrying Communist.'

"Whatever Mr. Welch may have said in private letters to individuals prior to his establishment of the society has no bearing on its tenets."

TALBERT SAID the society would have welcomed a State Assembly investigation originally proposed by Gov. Brown and State Sen. Hugh Burns.

"But they went off half-cocked, and when they found out the true purpose of our patriotic organization they backed away and are now stalling and trying to put it off until after the Legislature recesses," he said.

Welch will address the Freedom Club of the First Congregational Church here at Shrine Auditorium on April 11 at 8 p.m.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BON/DM

LOS ANGELES MIRROR
DATE 3-31-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR ARTHUR LARO
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

John Birch Society
LA 100-59001

cc Bureau
3/31/61
pr

100-59001-189

b6

b7C

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

ASA C

b6

b7C

be sure we stay away
+ forward clippings to
B

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC 100-

DATE: 3/30/61

FROM : [REDACTED] SA

b6

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

b7C

SM-X

[REDACTED] Calif. advised 3/30/61 he
is employed as [REDACTED]

b6
b7C
He continued he is a member of [REDACTED] John Birch Society, [REDACTED] Calif.
and was recruited by [REDACTED] He wanted to know whether his membership in
JOHN BIRCH Society will affect his Security Clearance. He was advised we could
not answer his question.

[REDACTED] offered his services to the FBI for whatever help they might be at
any time. He was thanked for his offer and advised that when needed we would
call on him.

EJK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

100-59001-190

SEARCHED <u>H</u>	INDEXED <u>H</u>
SERIALIZED <u>H</u>	FILED <u>H</u>
3 MAR 31 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Handwritten signature/initials over stamp]

Hiestand Doubts FBI Revelation

**Urges Birch Critics
to Get 'All Facts'**

Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand of Altadena, a member of the controversial John Birch Society, said Friday night he questioned "very much" whether FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover would reveal he was investigating the society.

Reached in Washington for comment on an article by Hearst National Editor Frank Conniff that the FBI is keeping an eye on the society, Hiestand said:

"I just can't imagine that the FBI would disclose what it is doing. It absorbs information. It doesn't reveal it. I question very much that it has done so in the case of the John Birch Society.

"The FBI knows all there is to know about the society. Mr. Hoover realizes that the lunatic fringe can sometimes do more harm than good, but the society is not in that category."

Earlier, Hiestand said he enrolled in the society because it is a "patriotic organization of rugged individualists, dedicated to patriotism and determined in their fight against communism.

He said that while he does not agree with all the views of society founder Robert Welch he openly subscribes to the general thesis of the organization and intends to continue as a member. He warned critics not to "sound off before they have all the facts."

Another Congressional member of the society, Rep. John H. Rousselot of San Gabriel, like Hiestand a Republican, said in commenting on the Conniff article:

"I'm attempting to make contact with J. Edgar Hoover to try to get a statement from him on the society. Until then, I don't want to say anything."

He said other Congressmen were society members but refused to divulge their names. He said he welcomes public hearings on society aims and activities, and that he himself joined it during his campaign for Congress last September, with members of his home town chapter serving as precinct workers for him.

Another John Birch member Eric L. Pridonoff of San Marino, a former economic attache at the U. S. embassy in Yugoslavia, also challenged Conniff.

"At no time will a government agent disclose that an

Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Warden Woolard

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

page 1 Col 1
sect 1

John Birch Society

100-59001-191
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
APR 1 1961
GELES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-95 BY SP4-BJAD/M

b6

b7C



—United Press International photo.



LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR _____

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

REP. HIESTAND WELCOMES QUIZ
"The more thorough the better," says he.

HE ADMITS BIRCH MEMBERSHIP
Rep. John Rousselot favors hearing.

Society: L. A. Member Denies Secrecy

From Page One the society but I believe in it."

organization is being investigated. And I don't think Hoover was referring to the John Birch Society, but to groups that have gone overboard, such as the Silver Shirts."

Pridonoff said "there is nothing vigilante about us and nothing secret."

Pridonoff, in a newspaper advertisement, urged publishers to run articles on communism "written by nationally known and respected leaders of our society, such as Hoover, Dr. (James W.) Fifielf, Cardinal Cushing" and others.

Pridonoff explained that the phrase "of our society" did not refer to John Birch but to "American society in general."

Dr. Fifielf, pastor of the First Congregational Church, said, "I am not a member of

He said "Hoover is a personal friend of mine. He is a great American and I have respect for his judgment. If he is investigating dangerous forces on both sides, my hope is that he will look very thoroughly into the John Birch Society, because I believe it is a great organization."

Dr. Fifielf said society founder Robert Welch will appear on his TV program April 9.

Meanwhile, Republican Congressman Alphonzo Bell of Santa Monica, former chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, said he had turned down several invitations to join the John Birch society, and he decried the "secrecy" aspect of the group.



—Associated Press wirephoto.

JOHN MORRISON
BIRCH

He fought communism.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

F B I

Date: 4/2/61

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-59001)

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS). INFORMATION CONCERNING. PAUL H. TALBERT, INSURANCE BROKER, BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF., MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL, JBS, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED AGENT, LOS ANGELES OFFICE, APRIL TWO, SIXTY ONE, DRAWING ATTENTION TO ARTICLE FEATURED IN LOS ANGELES EXAMINER, APRIL ONE, SIXTY ONE CAPTIONED QUOTE BIRCH SOCIETY BRANDED AS ANTI DASH U.S. UNQUOTE, BY FRANK CONNIFF, NATIONAL EDITOR HEARST NEWSPAPERS, AND BEARING AT EITHER END OF TOP BANNER RED INK SPREAD, A PHOTO OF ROBERT WELSH AND DIRECTOR HOOVER. MR. TALBERT TOOK EXCEPTION TO EXPRESSION IN CONNIFF-S ARTICLE: QUOTE THIS REPORTER HAPPENS TO KNOW THE FBI HAS TAKEN A DIM VIEW OF THE JBS FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW AND HAS ITS AGENTS IN THE PROPER PLACES TO MAINTAIN SURVEILLANCE OVER ITS ACTIVITIES. UNQUOTE. TALBERT ADVISED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD ROBERT WELSH, JBS FOUNDER, HAD WRITTEN OFFICIALLY TO OTHER WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES SEEKING FULL OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF JBS BY SENATE SUB DASH COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY. TALBERT EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER

TWC:CJH

(1)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/LM

SEARCHED ☐
INDEXED ☐
SERIALIZED ☒
FILED ☒

Approved: W. G. Senger

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

344
p

M

Per

mbjm

100-59001-192

LA 100-59001

PAGE TWO

FULL SCALE INVESTIGATION IMMEDIATELY. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR FACT SENATOR EASTLAND OF SENATE COMMITTEE, HAS LONG BEEN TARGET FOR LEFTISTS AND COMMUNISTS IN U.S. TALBERT SAID HE JUDGED THAT CALIFORNIA STATE AUTHORITIES, WHO ONCE SAID INVESTIGATION WOULD BE CONDUCTED OF JBS, HAD NOW RENEGED AND THAT CALIFORNIA STATE INVESTIGATION WAS PROBABLY NOT FORTH COMING. TALBERT SAID HE AND

b6

b7C

WERE PREPARED TO TRAVEL FROM LOS ANGELES TO WASHINGTON, D. C. FOR PURPOSE ENLIS^TING HCUA TO MAKE INVESTIGATION JBS AT THIS TIME. TALBERT WAS REMINDED THAT SENATE AND HOUSE ARE SEPARATE BRANCHES OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THAT, OF COURSE, NO COMMENT COULD BE OFFERED REGARDING HIS PLANS OR INTENTIONS. ABOVE IS FOR BUREAU-S INFORMATION. CLIPPING OF INSTANT EXAMINER STORY BEING FORWARDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

F B I

Date: _____

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES

DATE: 4/3/61

FROM : SUPERVISOR [REDACTED]

b6

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

b7C

[REDACTED]

California, telephone [REDACTED] telephonically advised Supervisor [REDACTED] on 4/3/61 that he is a member of the John Birch Society and also is [REDACTED]. He stated that he was writing a letter to OTIS CHANDLER, of the "Los Angeles Times," cancelling his subscription to the "Times" because of its opposition to the John Birch Society. [REDACTED] desired the answers to several questions regarding the contents of the letter; however, he was advised by [REDACTED] that the FBI is a fact-finding agency and as such could make no comment on the John Birch Society or any other individual or organization.

b6

b7C

EFL:DRU *gove*
(1)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/17

100-57001-193

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 3 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

182

Birch Society

Branded as

Anti-U. S.

By **FRANK CONNIF**
National Editor, Hearst Newspapers



—Associated Press wirephoto.

ROBERT WELCH
Its founder.

The timely warning of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that "vigilante action" by irresponsible organizations can do more harm than good in combatting communism in America should put a crimp in the burgeoning activities of the John Birch Society.

Hoover speaks from a lifetime of experience when he inveighs against groups which callously smear patriotic Americans in their misguided attempts to inject their own prejudices into the ideological struggle.

What is frequently forgotten about the FBI is that it keeps an eye cocked on neo-Nazi and Fascist organizations as well as on Communist fronts. This reporter happens to know the FBI has taken a dim view of the John Birch Society for quite some time now and has its agents in the proper

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATE 4-1-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR WARDEN WOOLARD
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

John Birch Society

100-59001

CC Bureau

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

100-59001-196

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>DA</i>	FILED <i>A</i>
APR 3 1961	
F. B. I. LOS 1	

EF

places to maintain surveillance over its activities.

From what one can learn of the inner structure of the John Birch outfit, its table of organization resembles nothing so much as the prospectus of the Ku Klux Klan when it was gathering strength in the 1920s.

It can be taken for granted that eventually it will reveal itself as an anti-Catholic, anti-Semite movement. This trend is clear insofar as the anti-Catholic philosophy is concerned by the words in which its founder refers to our President, John F. Kennedy.

Here is what Robert Welch, founder of the organization, thinks of President Kennedy, wartime hero, dedicated public servant, and devoted Catholic:

"You will usually find him in church on Sunday, maybe even in a Catholic church," writes Welch.

"We take it that this passes for great wit in the Birch Society. One can just visualize the members doubled up in laughter at the merry quip of the Fuehrer.

"Such an amoral man can do a tremendous amount of ball-carrying on behalf of the Communist aims here in the United States. And he can do an almost equal amount of damage to anti-Communist morale in other parts of the world."

President Kennedy, then an obscure naval lieutenant, should have been thinking of Welch's ultimate judgment when he was risking his life in enemy-infested waters to save his comrades.

As if the warning of Hoover weren't enough, we would think the words of Sen. Thomas Dodd of Connecticut would be the clincher in deterring anyone misled by the Birch Society's alleged anti-

Communism.

Sen. Dodd is on the firing line to such an extent he has been willing to make himself the pigeon for the anti-anti-Communists in his fight to pinpoint the Kremlin's moves with some degree of precision.

The smear campaign of the John Birch Society has turned his stomach, as it must that of all right-thinking Americans. Sen. Dodd calls the society an "affront to decency and intelligences" and is demanding a congressional investigation of its activities.

It must be assumed that some people who join the John Birch Society do so from good motives, as apart from the organizers who have their own anti-American, anti-Sem-

ite, anti-Catholic ends in view.

It is to be hoped the warnings of eminent citizens like FBI Director Hoover, Sen. Dodd, and other people who really understand the realities of the anti-Communist battle will give pause to anyone inclined to accept the leadership of frauds like Welch.

There is something ironic in the conceit of the John Birch Society that it is a "secret" organization. If there be anyone reading this who belongs to the outfit, I would advise him to be very discreet in what he says at the next "secret" meeting. The FBI is not merely an anti-Communist organization; it is an anti-subversive, and that means it watches Fascist, Nazi, Communist, and all anti-American groups.



J. EDGAR HOOVER

Warns on 'Vigilantes.'

John Birch Society

Branded Anti-American

By FRANK CONNIFF

National Editor, Hearst Newspapers



—Associated Press wirephoto.

ROBERT WELCH

Its founder.

The timely warning of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that "vigilante action" by irresponsible organizations can do more harm than good in combatting communism in America should put a crimp in the burgeoning activities of the John Birch Society.

Hoover speaks from a lifetime of experience when he inveighs against groups which callously smear patriotic Americans in their misguided attempts to inject their own prejudices into the ideological struggle.

What is frequently forgotten about the FBI is that it keeps an eye cocked on neo-Nazi and Fascist organizations as well as on Communist fronts. This reporter happens to know the FBI has taken a dim view of the John Birch Society for quite some time now and has its agents in the proper

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Warden Woolard

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

page 1 col. 1-8

sect 1

John Birch Society

cc - Bureau

4/1/61

YH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-90 BY SP4-BJA/DM

b6

b7C

100-59001-197

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

981

places to maintain surveillance over its activities. From what one can learn of the inner structure of the John Birch outfit, its table of organization resembles nothing so much as the prospectus of the Ku Klux Klan when it was gathering strength in the 1920s.

It can be taken for granted that eventually it will reveal itself as an anti-Catholic, anti-Semite movement. This trend is clear insofar as the anti-Catholic philosophy is concerned by the words in which its founder refers to our President, John F. Kennedy.

Here is what Robert Welch, founder of the organization, thinks of President Kennedy, wartime hero, dedicated public servant, and devoted Catholic:

"You will usually find him in church on Sunday, maybe even in a Catholic church," writes Welch.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR _____

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

We take it that this passes for great wit in the Birch Society. One can just visualize the members doubled up in laughter at the merry quip of the fuhrer.

"Such an amoral man can do a tremendous amount of ball-carrying on behalf of the Communist aims here in the United States. And he can do an almost equal amount of damage to anti-Communist morale in other parts of the world."

President Kennedy, then an obscure naval lieutenant, should have been thinking of Welch's ultimate judgment when he was risking his life in enemy-infested waters to save his comrades.

As if the warning of Hoover weren't enough, we would think the words of Sen. Thomas Dodd of Connecticut would be the clincher in deterring anyone misled by the Birch Society's alleged anti-



J. EDGAR HOOVER

Warns on 'Vigilantes.'

Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

2 Sec. I Sat., Apr. 1, 1961 Los Angeles Examiner **

Birch: Called Anti-Catholic, Anti-Semitic

From Page One [ite, anti-Catholic ends in view.

Communism.

Sen. Dodd is on the firing line to such an extent he has been willing to make himself the pigeon for the anti-anti-Communists in his fight to pinpoint the Kremlin's moves with some degree of precision.

The smear campaign of the John Birch Society has turned his stomach, as it must that of all right-thinking Americans. Sen. Dodd calls the society an "affront to decency and intelligences" and is demanding a congressional investigation of its activities.

It must be assumed that some people who join the John Birch Society do so from good motives, as apart from the organizers who have their own anti-American, anti-Sem-

It is to be hoped the warnings of eminent citizens like FBI Director Hoover, Sen. Dodd, and other people who really understand the realities of the anti-Communist battle will give pause to anyone inclined to accept the leadership of frauds like Welch.

There is something ironic in the conceit of the John Birch Society that it is a "secret" organization. If there be anyone reading this who belongs to the outfit, I would advise him to be very discreet in what he says at the next "secret" meeting. The FBI is not merely an anti-Communist organization; it is an anti-subversive, and that means it watches Fascist, Nazi, Communist, and all anti-American groups.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

March 29, 1961

Sirs;

I am interested in joining the John Birch Society. I have heard it labeled all kinds of things, and am afraid of joining it because of the labels.

I would like to know where the society stands in the F.B.I.'s regard. I don't want to join any organization which will jeprodize me or my family. A fast reply would be appreciated.

Thank you,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

b6

b7C

100-59001-198

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - LI	

1340 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles 17, California

April 3, 1961

b6

b7C



Dear 

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-B5M/AM

Reference is made to your letter of
March 29, 1961.

Although I would like to be of service,
I wish to advise that the FBI is strictly a fact-
finding agency and it is not within the limits of
its prescribed functions to draw conclusions or make
evaluations as to the character or integrity of any
organization or individual.

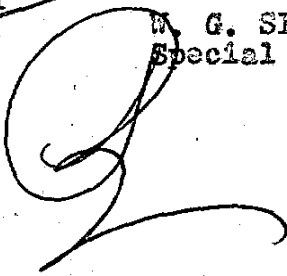
I know you will understand the reasons for
these rules and will not infer that we do or do not
have the information you request.

I would suggest, however, that you direct
your inquiry to the Department of Justice, attention
Subversive Organizations Section, Internal Security
Division, Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,

1 - Addressee
1 - LA 100-59001

:jss
(2)


W. G. SIMON
Special Agent in Charge

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED

100-59001-199

4/3/61

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL - REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-59001)
SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
Remytel 4/2/61.

Attached herewith are clippings of CONNIFF article in "Los Angeles Examiner" 4/1/61 and article, same issue, setting forth remarks of Representatives HIESTAND and ROUSSELOT re captioned group.

P

3 - Bureau (Encl. 2) (AIRMAIL) (REGISTERED)
1 - Los Angeles

TWC:DRU
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/107

AIRTEL

SEARCHED ☒
INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒
FILED ☒

Ep

100-59001-200

Birch Aide

Attacks Brown



THOMAS ANDERSON
Ike duped, says he.

Flays Welcome Extended Nikita

- "Let's Have the Facts;" See Editorial, Page 2, Pt. 3.
- Hiestand on spot; See Doris Fleeson, Pg. 4, Pt. 3.

Thomas J. Anderson, a member of the John Birch Society's national council, charged here Monday that Gov. Brown "should be tried" for the welcome he extended Soviet Premier Khrushchev during his visit in 1959.

A publisher from Nashville, Tenn., Anderson also told newsmen at the Ambassador Hotel that:

• FORMER PRESIDENT Eisenhower, while probably "not a conscious agent" of the Communist conspiracy, was its dupe.

• BIRCH FOUNDER Robert Welch is not a Fascist, nor are the society's members, but the organization is authoritarian "to a degree."

Anderson, who will speak to the Freedom Club at 7:30 tonight in the First Congregational Church, said:

"We should be trying Khrushchev — or the Governor of California, who told Khrushchev, 'We honor you; we salute you; we welcome you.' ... I think Gov. Brown should be tried...."

"The idea of a man who would make a statement like

that investigating the John Birch Society is ironical," Anderson said, but he added he would welcome any such investigation.

Anderson said he disagreed with Welch that Eisenhower was a Communist agent, but did believe the former President was duped into playing "into the hands of the Communists."

He added, "Communism made more strides under Mr. Eisenhower than under any other regime."

Anderson also said Welch's charge against Eisenhower was made in a letter to several friends before the Birch Society was organized and is not part of the society's official documents.

The organization is monolithic and believes in fighting communism by using Communist methods, he said, and therefore could be accused of being authoritarian. But he denied the society is in any way a "secret" group.

Claiming great Communist infiltration of U. S. officialdom, Anderson said:

"I don't believe things just happen. In 1945 ... we could have whipped the world ... I don't think this Castro thing just happened. I think it was promoted by some people in our State Dept., just like the takeover of China was."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BSP/DC

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE _____

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR _____

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

cc - Bureau
4/4/64
202

b6

b7C

100-59001-201

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1961	

Let's Have Facts on Birch Group

AS THE national uproar over the merits or demerits of the John Birch Society continues to generate more heat than light, it becomes evident that a full-fledged and thoroughgoing investigation of its aims and actions is needed immediately.

On this point there appears to be a virtually unanimous agreement between the leaders of the Society and its critics.

Robert Welch, founder of the Society, has formally requested United States Senator Eastland chairman of the Internal Security subcommittee to launch a formal inquiry. He had previously made the same request of Governor Brown, who had already asked Attorney General Mosk to look into the matter.

In the meantime, United States Attorney General Kennedy has expressed "concern" over the activities of the Society and Senator Kuchel vigorously deplored its tactics.

On the other side stood Congressmen Hiestand and Rousselot of California, who revealed they were members of the Society and proud of it.

Most of this congressional, legislative and political hubbub was provoked by extreme and intemperate statements attributed to Mr. Welch, which did not hesitate to impute Communist sympathies or connections to former Presidents Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower, Chief Justice Warren and other notables.

It was natural and unavoidable that these statements, widely circulated, should have clouded with suspicion the Society's objectives.

This makes the investigation demanded by both members and opponents of the Society all the more necessary and desirable.

In communications to Governor Brown and Senator Eastland, Mr. Welch asserted that his associates will "gladly testify about the background, methods, purposes and specific activities" of the Society, and that "unlike our Communist enemies none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment."

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-4-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR WARDEN W. L. ARB

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-86 BY SP4-BT/abm

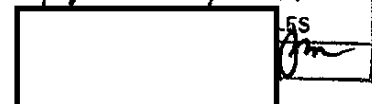
John Birch Society

*cc - Bureau 4/4/61
LH*

b6

b7C

100-59001-202
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED 11 FILED 11
1 APR 4 1961



That is fair enough.

At the present stage of the controversy, it is obvious that sharp-shooting and name calling from the sidelines will not clear up an issue that may prove dangerously divisive to the whole country.

Americans have a right to know all the facts, and exactly what is going on.

Not until the public is given that information by an inquiry conducted in full view and with the utmost fairness, will they be able to form accurate conclusions or reach solid decisions.

Chamber Chief Terms Welch 'Irresponsible'

The president of the United States Chamber of Commerce called the head of the controversial John Birch Society "irresponsible," while a congressman who belongs to the society defended it here Monday.

Arthur H. (Red) Motley, head of the Chamber, was asked at a press conference about a charge by Robert Welch, founder of the society, that the Chamber is "communistic, left wing and subversive."

"I have known Welch for a long time, and I called him on that," Motley said. "He told me he was only quoting an informer. But he couldn't name the informer, and I doubt if there was one. I think he's irresponsible."

The congressman, John H. Rousselot, Republican from the 25th District, said he joined the society last September and that "I have no reason to withdraw now," though some of its leaders have questioned President Kennedy's loyalty and accused former President Eisenhower of aiding the Communist cause.

The society has also charged Chief Justice Earl Warren with misbehaving in office.

Rousselot, speaking at a Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce luncheon, said "I don't believe Mr. Eisenhower is a Communist or Communist agent and I have not seen sufficient documentation to believe that Mr. Warren has misbehaved in office." He added:

"In this organization, as in every other that promotes knowledge and action, there are some members who do not fully think out a problem before they speak."

Shown a statement attributed to Revilo P. Oliver, a member of the society's national council, which said President Kennedy's loyalty would be open to question unless he rid himself of certain people, Rousselot said:

"I don't know who Oliver has reference to, but the gentlemen on the council are responsible citizens and don't make charges without having documentation to back them."

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATE 4-4-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR WARDEN Ward
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

John Birch Society

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJMP

100-59001-203

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1 APR 4 1961	
GELES	

b6

b7C

Hiestand on Spot in Birch Society Furor

By Doris Fleeson

WASHINGTON — The first member of Congress to admit his membership in the far right, semi-secret John Birch Society was Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, an extremely conservative Republican from what has long been a safely Republican district in Los Angeles County.

The society's announced aim is to fight communism. In doing so, it uses Communist techniques such as "front groups," loaded questions and more or less secret cells with particular attention to college campuses.



DORIS FLEESON

Its founder, Robert Welch, has charged that former President Eisenhower, Chief Justice Earl Warren, former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and CIA Director Allen Dulles were secret Communist agents or sympathizers. Hiestand now says that an honest investigation would dispel charges that the society is "dictatorial or fascist" and he wants the House Un-American Activities Committee to make it.

United Press International, in a special report had said that the society listed Hiestand as a member of its "Committee of Indorsers." Hiestand apparently decided to beat his political enemies to the punch by admitting it.

Secrecy Frowned On

UPI also states flatly that "There is no public accounting of either money or membership." Such secrecy is not against the law, as witness the Ku Klux Klan, but American public opinion has frowned on it in political societies. Hence the view in the California delegation here that Hiestand has written his political epitaph.

The fact that California is gaining eight new House seats by reason of its population increase, and that Democrats, at long last are getting a chance to do the reapportionment won't help him either.

What most interests Democrats, however, particularly the experts in the tangled maze of California politics, is what they think they perceive as a power play — directed by Richard M. Nixon — centering around the John Birch Society. The former Vice President's desire to run again for the Presidency is obvious.

The controversial society is particularly strong in California, a famous breeding ground of off-beat organizations. Presidents of the state's colleges find its campus cells just as troublesome as Communist cells were for a long time and occasionally still are.

Strategy Move Seen

The society is also said to be multiplying in the South, where Nixon and Republicans generally have great hopes.

Democrats are certain that few Democrats, certainly few in such key states as California, are attracted to the John Birch Society. Putting it another way, they figure the society as a hair shirt for Republicans in the same way left-wing organizations have been for Democrats. Certainly Republicans in key states cannot afford the label.

Democrats, therefore, suspect that the current outcry represents a considered effort by Republicans, including Nixon, to rid themselves of the John Birch coloration before the elections of 1962 and 1964. If some Republicans, as Hiestand, have to be sacrificed in the national Republican interest, Democrats figure Nixon as just the cool operator to figure out the tactics and put them into operation.

(Copyright, 1961, by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-4-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR WARDEN WOOLARD

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

John Birch Society

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

DATE 5-8-86 BY SP4 BSA/jm

100-59001-204

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1 APR 4 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

b6

b7C

Ohio Senator Raps Welch as 'Little Hitler'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Young (D-O.), Monday described Robert Welch, founder of the ultra-rightwing John Birch Society, as a character assassin and a "little Hitler."

But, he told the Senate, he sees no valid reason for either house of Congress to investigate the society.

Young said Congress is "too busy" to take up the time for such an investigation. And he said he concedes that "any mercenary demagogue has the right to express opinions, though discredited, unfounded and false."

Demands for such inquiries have been voiced at the Capitol in connection with charges by Welch that such people as former President Eisenhower and Chief Justice Warren have aided efforts of the Communist conspiracy.

Memberships Add

Young said Welch, a retired Belmont, Mass., candy manufacturer, "is succeeding handsomely in selling life memberships in his society for a thousands dollars each and raking in thousands of dollars every month in members' dues."

He described the society's leadership as "right-wing crackpots" who "would undermine the very foundations of American democracy."

Sen. Dodd (D-Conn.), who assailed Welch in a Senate speech last week, has said he will ask the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee to consider an investigation into the society.

Young, in his speech Monday, said of the society's leaders: "These radicals of the right have been practicing character assassination without regard for the truth."

'Know Nothings'

"They are the know-nothings of the 20th Century," he said.

At one point, Young said the "Mussolini," the "Il Duce or Fuehrer" of the Birch society is "a fake patriot—a slick demagogue proposing dangerous nonsense."

"His society, like the 'Know-Nothing' Party of 105 years ago, may live a little

while and then be gone with the wind," the Senator added.

"I assert the John Birch society is a fascist group," Young said. "It is well-larded with right-wing crackpots. It is an ideological abomination, and the self-appointed vigilantes who are its leaders deserve the disdain and scorn of every American who values his democratic heritage."

Young said he has received mail "clearly inspired by the John Birch Society" demanding impeachment proceedings against Chief Justice Warren.

He said one letter warned that he, Young, would never get another vote of the writ-

er if he approved Warren's record.

Goldwater Criticism of Welch Reported

NEW YORK (AP) — Sen. Goldwater (R-Ariz.) was reported by Newsweek magazine Monday to have once said the John Birch Society should get rid of Robert Welch, founder of the controversial organization.

The magazine said that when the organization began "a campaign to impeach Chief Justice Warren," Goldwater was asked his feelings by a member.

"If you want my advice, get rid of Bob Welch and every member who's after Warren," Goldwater was quoted as replying.

There was no indication when he made the statement.

Last Saturday Goldwater told a news conference that he disagrees with many of the theories of the right-wing organization but he is impressed by the type of people in it.

He said at the time that he did not agree with the society's purported desire to impeach Warren.

Rayburn Warns Home District on Society

MCKINNEY, Tex. (AP) — House speaker Rayburn (D-Tex.) Monday warned persons in his home district of what he called "strange nostrums" being spread by the John Birch Society.

The speaker did not mention the organization by

name in his talk but later he told reporters, "of course the John Birch group is the one I meant."

Rayburn said "they're spreading this idea that a government can get by without levying taxes. That is no way to stay secure from those who would destroy our freedom."

Rayburn, who spoke at the 15th anniversary celebration of the veterans hospital here, said:

"We have people who are, by nature, joiners. Yet the men who spread these strange nostrums would destroy our freedom. They go the length and breadth of our land claiming that we, in America, do not have freedom."

"My beloved people, our freedom in the United States is as near absolute as free-

dom can be. A world that the United States does not lead, if there ever is such a world, will be a world that is not free."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-4-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK B. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/KM

100-59006-205

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1961	
LOS ANGELES	
b6	

b7C

Birch Official Labels Eisenhower 'Red Dupe'

Farm Publisher, Here for Talk, Says
Russ Gained Most During His Terms

Thomas J. Anderson, farm journal publisher and member of the John Birch Society's national council, charged here Monday that former President Eisenhower was a "dupe" of the Communists.

But Anderson said he does not agree, as society founder Robert Welch wrote in his privately circulated "The Politician" several years ago, that Mr. Eisenhower was a "conscious agent" of the Communist conspiracy.

"The policies he (Eisenhower) laid down played into the hands of the Communists," Anderson said. "The Communists made more strides under Mr. Eisenhower than under any other regime."

Nashville Publisher

Anderson is president and publisher of the Farm and Ranch Publishing Co., Nashville, Tenn. He is here to address the Freedom Club of the First Congregational Church, 535 S Hoover St., at 7:30 p.m. today.

In an interview at the Ambassador, Anderson said he believes the government and other institutions of the United States are "very heavily" infiltrated by Communists.

"In 1945 we were sitting on top of the world; we could have whipped the world," he said. "Now we hear slogans like, 'We'd better be Red than dead.'"

"I think the Castro thing was promoted by some of the people in our State Department, just like the take-over of China was. The President, regardless of who he is, if he is not briefed correctly he is not capable of taking the right position."

Calls for Purpose

Anderson said the pattern of U.S. policy for the past 15 years has been to "turn our backs" on such anti-Communist leaders as Franco in Spain and Batista in Cuba.

"I'm not defending dictatorship of the right or left," he said, "but if we are going to play ball with any dictator, let's play ball with those on our side."

"What should we do, go to war?" a reporter asked.

"I don't think we should start dropping bombs," Anderson replied. "I think we should have a national purpose dedicated to freeing the

enslaved people of the world, not containment and coexistence with butchers.

"The only way we can coexist is as slaves. Our national purpose should be to destroy communism and Communists. We can play the same game they are as far as infiltration is concerned. Otherwise, we're going to fall."

"I would have risked war in Hungary and in Cuba."

Anderson defended the John Birch Society against charges that it is a secret, fascist or authoritarian organization. He said he would welcome an investigation because the press has either become confused about it or has distorted the facts.

He described the society



Thomas J. Anderson
Times photo

as an educational organization and an action group.

"I believe it has to be monolithic," he said. "If it became a debating society and had to take a vote, it would never accomplish anything."

"Mr. Welch is a great believer in individualism... I don't agree with everything Mr. Welch believes, but if I didn't agree with him most of the time I would get out."

Birch Officer Fears Kennedy Aid to Reds

CHAMPAIGN, ILL. (UPI)

A national officer of the John Birch Society said Monday the Kennedy administration includes "weak-in-the-head personalities" who may act in the interest of the Communist conspiracy.

Reville Pendleton Oliver, professor of classics at the University of Illinois and a council member of the ultra-conservative society, said President Kennedy's loyalty to the United States would be in question unless he rid himself of "political payoffs" in the administration.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-4-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK B. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BGL/AM

100-59001-206

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 4 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Ph

b6

b7C

Won't Name Names

Oliver refused to name any of the "payoffs."

He said he had "no means of knowing whether President Kennedy is a Communist or not." But he added that a "whole list of administration appointees endangers the security of the United States."

Oliver has been a member of the Birch Society since it was founded.

The society came into prominence when it was revealed that an 80,000-word "letter" written by founder Robert Welch said "Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist Party."

Oliver called the excerpt a "misquote," but refused to say whether he agreed with it. He said former President Eisenhower "is capable of being corrupt because he is a man."

Texas Editor Defends Society as Red Foe

BORGER, Tex. (UPI) — The Borger News-Herald Monday defended the John Birch Society as an organization whose members would "not plead either the 1st or 5th Amendment" in any investigation.

"They have nothing to hide," said the News-Herald Editor J. C. Phillips in his daily column. "Members of the John Birch Society are proud to take an oath of loyalty to this country whenever required to do so."

He said criticism of the society had been started by the Peoples World, "A West Coast Communist publication, and immediately parroted by self-serving politicians, naive newspaper editors and magazines identified with similar attacks upon the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy."

Phillips said that "anti-anti-Communists" had killed McCarthy and now planned to destroy Robert Welch, founder and head of the John Birch Society, "and anyone else who dares to effectively

fight the Communist conspiracy here at home where it must be defeated before we can hope to win any stand against Soviet Russia."

Birch Official Sees Gain in Membership

CENTRALIA, Mo. (UPI) — A high-ranking officer of the controversial John Birch Society predicts the group will grow in numbers and increase its prestige.

The statement was made by industrialist F. Gano Chance, a member of the society's governing council and board chairman of the A. B. Chance Co. in Centralia.

"There are Communists in all the departments of our government and the State Department is the most heavily infiltrated," he added.

Hiestand Praised for Stand on Birch

Mirror Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — "I can not let the sun set tonight without putting this note of thanks to you into the mail . . ."

Rep. Edgar Hiestand (R-Altadena) was inundated today with letters like that one from a South Pasadena woman following his disclosure last week that he is a member of the controversial John Birch Society.

"WE'VE RECEIVED about 250 letters, 36 wires and uncounted phone calls since the congressman took his stand on the Birch Society in a press conference last Friday," a Hiestand spokesman said.

"Of that number, we've counted only eight which are critical of him."

THE MAIL came from throughout the nation:

Carroll, Ia. — "God grant you the strength to root out the rats from our beloved America. If such movements as your organization can get leeway, Sen. Joe McCarthy will not have died in vain."

Columbus, O. — "Can you arrange for an Ohioan to vote in the California elections? If so, I'll make the trip to vote for you."

Biloxi, Miss. — "Touche! Three cheers for the John Birch Society!"

Dozens asked for information on how they could join the ultraconservative anti-Communist group.

ON THE other side, a Burbank constituent wrote:

"Had I been aware of your membership in this crackpot organization, I never would have voted for you."

Arcadia — "You will never be re-elected."

Maywood, Ill. — "You ought to be ashamed of belonging to such an un-American and bigoted organization."

Hiestand was out of town for a few days during the congressional recess.

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 4/4/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR ARTHUR LARO

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

John Birch Society

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJW/m

100-59001-207

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1 APR 1 1961	
ELES	

b6

b7C

Birch Society Hit, Defended

Group's Leader Attacked by C of C Chief, Senator

Controversy over the ultra-conservative John Birch Society continued to rage here today.

The president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce called the society's leader "irresponsible"; a United States senator termed it a "Fascist group"; and two members of the society, one a Congressman, defended it.

Arthur (Red) Motley, chamber president, said at a press conference here Monday that he had asked Robert Welch, founder of the society, about a charge by Welch that the Chamber is "communistic, left wing and subversive."

"I HAVE known Welch for a long time and I called him on that," Motley said. "He told me he was only quoting an informer but he couldn't name the informer."

"I doubt if there was an informer. I think he's irresponsible."

Rep. John H. Rousselot (R-Arcadia) told the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce

luncheon he has "no reason to withdraw" from membership in the Birch group.

In commenting on statements from some Birch leaders that former President Eisenhower is a Communist dupe and that Chief Justice Earl Warren misbehaved in office, Rousselot said:

"I DON'T believe Mr. Eisenhower is a Communist or Communist agent and I have not seen sufficient documentation to believe that Mr. Warren has misbehaved in office."

The society was characterized as a "Fascist group" led by a "fake patriot proposing dangerous nonsense" by Sen. Stephen Young (D-O.).

In a sharp attack, Sen. Young compared Welch to "Mussolini or Hitler."

"I assert the John Birch Society is a Fascist group," Young said. "It is well-larded with right-wing crackpots."

YOUNG'S comments in Washington were followed by a defense of Welch here from one of his followers.

Thomas Anderson, member of the society's highest council, called Welch a great "patriot" and "a great believer in individualism."

Welch, in the Blue Book which sets down the operating procedures of the society in its battle against communism, makes it clear he intends to run the society without any democratic process.

But Anderson said "local chapters are not bound to follow the policies of the national body." He added it "is not a debating society."

"WE COULD never get anything done. Democracy is 100% mob rule."

Anderson, here to speak to the Freedom Club of the First Congregational Church, charged in a press conference at the Ambassador that Castro gained power in Cuba because he was "promoted by some people in our State Department."

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 4/8/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR ARTHUR LARO

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-2-26 BY SP4-BJA/BJ

100-59001-208

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1 APR 1 1961	
LOS ANGELES	

b6

b7C



TELLS RED MENACE—Thomas J. Anderson, left, a member of the John Birch Society's national council, chats with M. D. James, chairman of the Freedom Club of the First Congregational Church. Anderson warned Communism is taking over America.

Times photo

Birch Society Official Cites Red Timetable

Publisher Tells Freedom Club Audience He Favors Giving Red China Our Seat in U.N.

Equal men are not free and free men are not equal, Thomas J. Anderson, farm journal publisher and member of the John Birch Society's national council, declared here Tuesday night.

"I'm for the inequality of man," Anderson told 1,200 members of the Freedom Club at the First Congregational Church, 535 S Hoover St.

"If we and the Commu-

nists keep on doing the same things we've been doing, they'll take us over by 1973. That's their timetable and they're on schedule. . .

"I'm for dying on my feet, in preference to living on my knees . . . We must maintain our moral superiority. We must fear slavery more than we fear war."

Anderson, president and publisher of Farm & Ranch

Publishing Co., Nashville, Tenn., said much of the predicament this country is in was planned that way, either by "misguided leaders" or people who think that is the only way out.

"I'm for a new political party—a second party," he said. "We can't wait for our leaders. We can't depend on professionals."

"We are in a war for sur-

vival as a free people under God and we are losing. The reason we are losing is the enemy knows they are waging war and we have not yet waked up to it."

Anderson said he is for outlawing the Communist Party and jailing and deporting all known Communists—"including those in the State Department." He said he is for giving Red China a seat in the United Nations—"our seat."

Introduced by Freedom Club chairman M. D. James as a John Birch Society council member, Anderson made only one reference to the controversial group in his four-long address.

"I am for the John Birch Society," he said.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-5-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Nick B. Williams

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/jm

100-59001-209

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 5 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Rejected Birch Society Post, Goldwater Says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Goldwater (R-Ariz.) disclosed Tuesday that he rejected months ago an offer to become a member of the council of the John Birch Society, currently under fire in Congress.

Goldwater, an avowed conservative, said he never joined the society.

The Arizona senator said he has no recollection of ever telling any member of the society that the group ought to get rid of Robert Welch, its head.

Goldwater made this comment when asked about an article in Newsweek magazine.

Goldwater told a news conference last Saturday that he did not agree with the society's purported desire to impeach Warren. He said he disagreed with many of the organization's theories but was impressed by the type of people in it.

The Senate internal security subcommittee announced Tuesday it will meet April 12 to decide whether to investigate the group's leadership.

Welch Cancels Press Conference

Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch society, has canceled a scheduled question-and-answer appearance Monday before the Los Angeles Press Club.

Welch had accepted the invitation last Friday, but later relayed word that he was forced to cancel the appearance on advice of his attorney. It was to have been his only press conference during his visit here.

He is scheduled to address the Freedom Club of the First Congregational Church at a meeting in Shrine Auditorium at 8 p.m. next Tuesday.

Welch also will speak the following night, April 12, in the San Marcos High School auditorium, Santa Barbara.

The society had asked the school district for free use under the California Civic Center Act. But then school authorities learned admission was to be on a ticket basis and that all tickets were distributed early by the society.

Determining that it was not an open meeting, the school district decided to charge the society \$25 for use of the auditorium and an additional \$25 for use of the public address system and lighting.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-5-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Nick B. Williams

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BTA/jm

100-59001-210

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 5 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

cc Bureau
3/31/61
np

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/BJM

100-59001-211

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <u>lm</u>	FILED <u>lm</u>
MAY 21 1961	
FBI - NEW YORK	

687

b6

b7C

Goldwater Views Nixon, JFK, Birch

Senator Barry Goldwater gave his qualified approval Wednesday to the White House hopes of Richard Nixon, the foreign policies of President Kennedy and the controversial John Birch Society.

The Arizona Senator, leader of the GOP conservative wing, made these points at a press conference at the Billmore.

• **HE WOULD NOT** be against Nixon as the GOP presidential nominee in 1964—but he must first be elected to another office. "You can't be a power behind a lawyer's desk," said Goldwater.

• **HE BELIEVES** the President's action on Laos was "very correct" and "would like to think it is the beginning of a consistently strong foreign policy."

• **HE'S NOT** very well acquainted with the John Birch Society, but a lot of his friends belong and he's "attracted" to the type of people in the movement.

Goldwater was in Los Angeles to speak at a luncheon of the third annual California Freedom Forum, sponsored by Pepperdine College.

As for future presidential contests, Goldwater denied any aspirations of his own.

"I don't want to run for the Presidency," he said. "I believe I can do more good for my country in the Senate than in the White House."

The Arizona Senator, never too warm toward Nixon's candidacy, was asked if there is a reluctance among leading Republicans to be the party's presidential nominee in 1964 because of the edge usually held by a President seeking reelection.

Goldwater said he didn't think so and added:

"I sort of go along with Sen. Bridges. I think our nominee in 1964 will be a man we haven't thought of yet."

How does Goldwater assess the new administration?

"I would say the things President Kennedy has proposed are radical," said the Senator. "Any program that tends to centralize government is radical."

Goldwater pointed out he had been critical of President Eisenhower's "Dime Store New Deal" for the same reason.

However, he is completely in favor of President Kennedy's strong stand against communism in Laos, he said.

"I believe if we are consistently strong, the Russians will back down," the Senator said.

He said we must stand up to communism even at the risk of war.

Asked about the John Birch Society, which some have assailed as a fascist group, and whether he approved of it, Goldwater replied:

"I can't answer yes or no. I don't know much about it. They are anti-Communist and I don't see how we can be against that."



SEN. BARRY
GOLDWATER

He backs Laos move.

"A lot of people in my home town, both Democrats and Republicans, have been attracted to it, and I am impressed by the type of people in it. They are the kind we need in politics."

However, Goldwater quickly disassociated himself with any sympathy for views expressed by Robert Welch, founder of the society, who has accused President Eisenhower of being a Communist and has asked for the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren.

"Of course, I don't agree President Eisenhower was a Communist," Goldwater said.

"I told Bob Welch, so these or four years ago."

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 3-30-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR WARDEN WOODLARD

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

cc Bureau
3/31/61
JB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-94 BY SP4-BJA/M

100-59001-212

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1961	
FBI - NEW YORK	

LES
JST

b6

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-94 BY SP4-BJA/M

John Birch Leader Due Here

Robert Welch, head of the John Birch Society, will speak at two public meetings next month.

He will address a special public meeting of the Freedom Club of First Congregational Church at Shrine Auditorium at 8 p.m., April 11. Tickets are on sale at the church.

Welch will speak in Santa Barbara at 8 p.m. April 12 at San Marcos High School. This meeting is sponsored by the Tri-Counties chapter of the John Birch Society representing Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties. This meeting will be free to the public.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 3-30-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR WARDEN WOODARD

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

*JOHN BIRCH
Society
LA 100-59001*

cc Bureau
3/5/61
TB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DP

100-59001-213

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <u>by</u>	FILED <u>by</u>
MAR 21 1961	
FBI - NEW YORK	

827

DATE 3/5/61
RECEIVED
FBI NEW YORK

b6

b7C

Welch, Founder Of Birch Group, To Speak Here

Angelenos will have an opportunity to see and hear Robert Welch, founder and head of the John Birch Society, when he appears as principal speaker here April 11 at a special public meeting of the Freedom Club of First Congregational Church.

The talk will be given at 8 p. m. at Shrine Auditorium. Tickets may be obtained at the church.

On the following night Welch will speak at Santa Barbara under sponsorship of the 27th Counties (Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura) chapter of the John Birch Society.

LOS ANGELES EVENING

HERALD EXPRESS

DATE 3-30-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR HERBERT H. KRAUCH

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

John Birch Soc.
LA 100-59001

Birch Society Probe Opposed by ACLU

The American Civil Liberties Union said today it opposes any investigation of the John Birch Society by Congress or the State Legislature.

Eason Monroe, executive director of ACLU in Southern California, said such an investigation would violate the First Amendment rights of the right-wing organization.

LEADERS OF the society, including founder Robert Welch, have said they would welcome an investigation in order to testify.

"The right of all citizens to hold and to advocate their political views, regardless of how extreme and distorted these views may be, is inviolate," Monroe said.

"Only a showing that the advocacy of such views constituted a clear and present danger that unlawful acts will be committed would justify a restraint upon the speech or assembly of the John Birch Society."

He said even the "alleged secret character of the society" does not constitute grounds for investigation.

MONROE SAID the ACLU has "suffered considerably at the hands of the society mainly in Orange County. Movement there to recall an ACLU member, Joel S. Dyor, man, from Magnolia District School Board, "is apparently inspired by Birch Society members," he said.

"On numerous occasions officials and members of this society have slandered the ACLU, made false statements regarding us and have sought to discredit our purposes and program," Monroe said.

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 3-27-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Arthur Caro

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

*John Birch Society
LA File 100-59001*

*CC Bureau
3/27/61
PR*

b6

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/27

100-59001-214

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
7 1961	
S ANGELES	

JS

Cardinal Lauds Founder of Birch Society

NORTH EASTON, Mass., April 6 (AP)—Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston says Robert Welch, founder and leader of the controversial John Birch Society, is a "very capable, fearless man who has made sacrifices to fight Communism."

Nevertheless, anyone who charges former President Eisenhower with Communist leanings is "speaking absurdities," the cardinal said in a speech last night.

"Anyone who is fighting Communism today on a top level and who knows the teaching of Communism—that man is going to suffer," the Boston prelate said in an address to business and professional men last night.

LOS ANGELES EVENING
HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 4-6-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR HERBERT H. KROUCH

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

b6

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-GJA/jm

100-59001-215

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>amd</i>	FILED <i>amd</i>
APR 3 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

pm

March 26, 1961

The John Birch Society,
Belmont,
Mass.

Dear Mr. Welch:

Please remove my name from the membership list of the
John Birch Society. We are moving South and cannot participate
any longer.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



INDEX

b6

b7C

*2/13/61
2/15/61
1/20/61*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

BY 604-BSA/JM

INDEX

@ Put in for info.

100 - 59001-216

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 6 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

JST

Birch Founder Cancels Quiz

Robert Welch, founder of the controversial John Birch Society, today canceled a scheduled question-and-answer appearance before the Los Angeles Press Club.

Welch had accepted the club's invitation to appear Monday, but today told club officials his lawyer had advised him against the session.

"VALLEY TIMES TODAY," North Hollywood
Home Edition - Wednesday, April 5, 1961
Section 1, Page 3, Column 6
Editor - JACK BERGER
Los Angeles Field Division

RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
LA File 100 - 59001 *

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/SM

100-59001-217

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 6 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

This is a sample of a letter that was sent special delivery, return receipt requested. Make up your own. Handwrite or type.

4 April 1961

Mr. Norman Chandler, President
Times-Mirror Company
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Chandler:

My family has been a customer of the Los Angeles Times for six years. We have read your news and your advertisements for some 2190 days and have bought from your advertisers. Today we are cancelling our subscription and are asking our friends to do the same.

Four years in the United States Marine Corps convinced me what Americanism is. Publication of untruths, omission of truths of the John Birch organization (which is just as American as my associates in the Marine Corps), is not Americanism. It is 180 degrees to the left.

Ownership under Communism is punishable by death. Please refer to the accounts of the Red invasion of China (in your newspapers). You are an owner. Insinuation and slander on your front page on the "eve" of an election, wherein the Communists are vowed to take over our Los Angeles government, is, in my opinion, like signing your own death warrant. Ask Matt Cvetic or Herb Philbrick. They say "de-ownership" of the U.S. will start in 1963.

(Signed) Your Name
Your Address

cc:
Los Angeles County and City Advertisers
San Fernando Valley Advertisers
Associates and Friends who are also Owners
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY 394-BJA/SM

100-59001-218

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 7 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

April 5 1961



b6

b7C

FBI

attached is a copy
of the letter I dictated
to you over the phone.

Frankly, it scares me
to attempt this sort of
counter activity, but
figure they probably have
my name on their list
anyhow.

Am sending ditto
copies to friends in the
organizations - Birch and
Cardinal Menzies

T.B.

Thermofax copy

3 April 1961

Mr. Norman Chandler, President
Times-Mirror Company
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Chandler:

My family has been a customer of the Los Angeles Times for six years. We have read your news and your advertisements for some 2190 days and have bought from your advertisers. Today we are cancelling our subscription and are asking our friends to do the same.

Four years in the United States Marine Corps convinced me what Americanism is. Publication of untruths, omission of truths of the John Birch organization, (which is just as American as my associates in the Marine Corps) is not Americanism. It is 180-degrees to the left.

Ownership under Communism is punishable by death. Please refer to the accounts of the Red invasion of China (in your newspapers). You are an owner. Insinuation and slander on your front page on the "eve" of an election, wherein the Communists are avowed to take over our Los Angeles government, is, in my opinion, like signing your own death warrant. Ask Matt Cvetic or Herb Philbrick. They say "de-ownership" of the U.S. will start in 1963.

b6

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

cc:
San Fernando Valley Advertisers
Associates and Friends who are also Owners
Federal Bureau of Investigation

*Not rec to our because
it was done on phone - P*

index

100-59001-219

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 7 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

EP

b6

b7C

April 1, 1961

J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you for your letter of February 15 in reply to our telegram regarding Langston Hughes. We were not uninformed regarding the regulations of the Department of Justice, we needed just exactly the kind of reply you wrote with which to confront the supporters of Langston Hughes. Their answer to our criticism of Hughes being permitted to appeal on our High School campus was that he had been "cleared" by the FBI.

In spite of the criticism directed against his appearance the same papers that are currently castigating the John Birch Society made a hero out of him.

This is my point, and the reason for this letter. In the face of your statement in the above mentioned letter; "Information in the files of the FBI is confidential pursuant to a regulation of the Department of Justice, and accordingly, I am unable to accede to your request," (regarding information about Hughes) how can the following statement made by Frank Conniff, National Editor of the Hearst Newspapers, be true?

In today's Los Angeles Examiner, Mr. Conniff states: "This reporter happens to know the FBI has taken a dim view of the John Birch Society for quite some time now and has its agents in the proper places to maintain surveillance over its activities." In the enclosed article you will also note that by inference Mr. Conniff has used the name of J. Edgar Hoover to "Brand" the Birch Society as "Anti-U.S."

If citizens who are concerned about protecting the young people of this country from the influence of men like Hughes are denied information by Department of Justice regulations, how can newspaper reporters obtain it to enforce their opinions?

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-GJA/

Sincerely,

100-59001-220
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIAL

b6

b7C

Enc. 1

Copy to L. A. Bureau

April 10, 1961

b6
b7C

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of April 1, with enclosure, and can readily understand the concern which prompted you to write to me.

With respect to the matter you mentioned, the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. In light of the foregoing, I can assure you that neither I nor any representative of this Bureau has made any comment concerning the organization about which you inquired. Furthermore, you may be certain that Mr. Frank Conniff has never had access to the files of the FBI.

In view of your interest, I am enclosing a recent statement which you may like to read.

Sincerely yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/SM

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

① - Los Angeles - Enclosure

b6
b7C

[Redacted]

100-58201-201

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Wms

Amateurs Unneeded, FBI Is Handling Reds

Editor, News-Press: There is value at times in "technicalizing the obvious." Those who demand and expect support solely and simply because they are against communism forfeit the right to it when they adopt the methods and form of organization of the Reds.

It is implicit in your superb indictment of the John Birch Society that there can be no point in fighting the Communists if we end up just like them. A related factor needs explicit expression; virtually all extreme rightists insist on their right to define the terms. This preposterous claim is most marked among the witch-hunting critics of the churches, notably of the National Council of Churches.

As one contemplates what these groups think is Com-

munist, and especially the honored persons in public life and in organized religion whom they denounce as fellow-travelers or worse, one can only pity such wild-swinging sluggers. They seem to me beyond helping, except perhaps by a top-flight psychiatrist.

Still another oddity; All ultra-conservatists are uncritical devotees of the FBI. While such an attitude toward any form of secret police is as dangerous as extreme radicalism, it does appear beyond question that such public authorities are doing their job well in dealing with the "Red Menace." Since they are, what conceivable need can there be for amateurs among private citizens and/or public officials?

Vernon Nash
601 Litchfield Lane

Santa Barbara News-Press
Santa Barbara, Calif.
3/9/61

THOMAS M. STORKE - EDITOR
Los Angeles Office

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-GJA/m

b6

b7C

100-59001-222

March 9, 1961



957

A View of the News

George Todt's Opinion

"Thou shouldst not decide until thou hast heard what both have to say."
—ARISTOPHANES, The Wasps.

There is no dearth of "Committees for Fair Play" in the United States nowadays when ever Communist-dominated organizations become the justified targets of the wrath of the American people.

They even have one of these things for Castro.



Todt

Now that an anti-Communist organization is under fire—the John Birch Society—let's see if the forces of liberalissimo observe the same high standards of conduct towards their opponents that they constantly whine for themselves. Where is the spirit of Voltaire here?

Beware, Beware

I am not a member of the John Birch Society, but I think that, in their case, a great number of innocent, patriotic Americans have been already much-maligned by ideological hatchet-men who should have "stood in bed" as the saying goes.

As a member of the press who is interested primarily in fair play—and above all, the truth! — I think it is time to set the record straight. What's the score?

Let me make this suggestion to my readers in advance: Don't permit cunning voices with axes to grind stampede you by the unholy "smear technique" before you have a chance to investigate this matter without bias or prejudice to your own satisfaction.

Go and find out for yourselves.

Let your own eyes and ears — and conscience — be the judge!

Of Interpretation

There is a John Birch office in Los Angeles, located at 3750 W. Sixth st., Zone 5. Telephone: DUnkirk 5-2389. Its manager is a young man named Kent Steffgen. He told me he would be glad to answer your questions. Ask him about the side of the story

he represents before arriving at any hard and fast decision.

When I first perceived the 'gigantic smear shaping up against the members of the John Birch Society—which numbers some of our finest citizens in its ranks here in the Southern California area and elsewhere—I interviewed Steffgen about the matter.

Knowing the lofty American ideals of the society from some of my friends who are members, I considered it nothing less than lunatic to attempt to link this dedicated organization to the likes of Karl Marx, Adolf Hitler and Gerald L. K. Smith.

If I ever wrote a lie of that dimension, I would forever hold my head in shame!

The patron saints of the John Birch Society are George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt.

LOS ANGELES EVENING

HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 3-15-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR HERBERT H. KRAUCH

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

cc Bureau
3/15/61
PR

100-59001-223

b6

b7C

March 15, 1961

JST

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

Guilty Only...

To go to the heart of the problem, it is true that the founder of the John Birch Society once wrote a pamphlet for circulation among about 100 friends in which he was extremely critical of men like former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, former Vice President Richard Nixon, former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, and his brother, the present director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Allen Dulles.

These are all men whom I, personally, warmly admire and whose patriotic Americanism I have extolled on innumerable occasions in this column. I deplore any intemperate language used against any of these four fine men. And I won't buy a comma of it!

But having said this, there are other factors to be considered. In the first place, Robert Welch, the John Birch founder, wrote these intemperate statements before he had founded the society. It was in a book called "The Politician"—never in the society's "Blue Book." So what the author wrote before the

society came into existence is certainly not binding—and has never been intended to be!—upon the later membership.

By Association?

To condemn the membership for something Welch stated before the society came into existence is little short of what our liberalissimo friends would call "guilt by association." Now we can't have that, can we?

In the second place, let's look at the forest instead of the trees in this case. Granted that Robert Welch used intemperate language against four men whom I greatly admire—am I still to write off his magnificent fight against Communism because of this "personality" factor?

I think the most important thing about the John Birch Society lies not in the personality of its founder—who likely needs a good public relations director like crazy!—but in the fact that it is dedicated to the overthrow of Communism and the protection of constitutional government in the Republic of the United States.

We can afford to overlook some faults of these dedicated anti-Communists on that account.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

b6 TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-43513) DATE: 3/16/61
 b7C FROM: SA [REDACTED]
 SUBJECT: WOMEN FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION (WLA)
 IS - C

b2

SOURCE ACTIVITY RECEIVED AGENT LOCATION

b7D

b2

b7D

[REDACTED] WLA Business 3/14/61 writer [REDACTED]
 who has furnished reliable information in the past and whose identity should be concealed.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/SM

Informant furnished the following written report:

"Date, March 8, 1961
 Place, The Highland, 732 North Highland Ave.
 Time, 10-15 A.M. - 2-30 P.M.
 Feature, Business Meeting, Women for Legislative Action
 Program, 10-15 A.M. Foreign Affairs & Community and
 Civil Liberties Panels.
 12-15 P.M. Luncheon
 1 P.M. Business meeting and Speaker
 Speaker, HANK ZIVETY, Teacher & Exec. Secretary, American
 Federation of Teachers.
 Topic, What Are The Issues, In The Board of Education
 Elections?"

b2

b7D

cc: [REDACTED]

1 - CHARLOTTE (CARL SANDBURG) -
REGISTERED

100-59001 (JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)
 100-34470 (LINUS PAULING)
 100-50507 (AVA PAULING)

100-2700 (AFSC)
 105-255 (CORE)
 100-47309 (FCL)
 100-59609 (NCAUAC)

100-59001-224

Searched	Indexed
Serialized	Filed
MARCH 16, 1961	
FBI, LOS ANGELES	

CEW/slp
 (26)

Read by

CEW

b6

b7C

LA 100-43513

"Attendance,

"About 50, among those present were:



b6

b7C

"Morning Session 10-15 A.M. - 12-15 P.M.

"International Panel

"Chairman DORIS LESTER

Discussion: Should there be a change in the U.N. Secretariat?

A revaluation of the Function of the United Nations:

What are it's responsibilities in this changing world?

What it may do and what it may not do?

"IDA STEIN

"Was the U.N. action in the Congo in fulfillment of those responsibilities?

"NATALIE BROWN

"Should the U.N. interfere in the internal affairs of a nation? If so, under what circumstances?

"Should nations have the right to act unilaterally in the affairs of another nation?

"How can we help?

LA 100-43513

"Community Affairs & Civil Liberties Panel.

"LEAH LONDON - Chairman

"A report of the A.C.L.U. Legislative Conference held Feb. 18th.

"Issues:

"Abolition of Capital Punishment
Repeal of Loyalty Oaths & Dilworth Act
Police Standards & Powers
Censureship
Civil Rights
National Legislation

"Reporters,

"JULIA KAGAN
HELEN SELDEN
LEAH LONDON
LEE HAYMAN
JULIA SHERMAN

"At the joint meeting of both panels, the following decisions were reported.

"The U.N. should live up to the principles of the Charter in the Congo crisis.

"U.N. action in the Congo, did not stop Belgium shipping in arms & ammunition.

"There should be a change in leadership in the U.N., according to KHRUSHCHEV.

"Write to Sen. MORRIS to vote to abolish the Connolly Amendment Bill 39.

"U.S. should be allowed to participate in World Court.

"Write to ADLAI STEVENSON, stating the American argument against colonization is much to be improved.

"Write to Senator MC MILLEN to act for the repeal of the Loyalty Oath for Public employees.

"Write to SENATORS REGAN, STANFORD, SHAW, HUGO FISHER, members of S.J.C. and to Sen. RICHARD RICHARDS to vote no on bill S.B.-82.

LA 100-43513

"Send a nite letter to RICHARD RICHARDS to support the Fair Housing Bill - A.B.-801, which will be soon sent to the Senate, and to your Assemblyman, to support this bill (A.B.-801).

"DORIS ROTH, President, remarked that the John Birch Soc. of which Mr. WELCH (ROBERT) the candy mfg., is the leader, is a facist movement, and is a well organized group with plenty of money. They favor MC CARTHY.

"This is a most important time, and there are 100,000 members. It is a dictatorial group.

"Write letters to save Civil Rights, to your Senators.

"Write to Pres. KENNEDY, deploring colonialism and that each country has the right to self government and to respect the rights of all nations in accordance wiht the U.N. Charter, and to remove troops from the Congo, except the U.N. troops.

"She also asked us to sign petitions sponsored by AVA HELEN & LINUS PAULING, on an Appeal To Stop The Spread of Nuclear Weapons.

"There will be a dinner at the Frst Unitarian Church, Sat., March 18, 61, for the benefit of FRANK WILKINSON.

"I.F. STONE will speak at the First Unitarian Church Friday May 12, and the W.L.A. will give a tea for him Sat.-May 13, where he will speak. Place to be announced later.

"The Annual Awards luncheon to be held Sat. June 10-61, at the Sportsmans Lodge on Ventura Blvd., Fee \$5.

"CARL SANDBURG will be the Guest Speaker.

"There will be a Peace March April 1-61, sponsored by SANE - Friends Committee, with a three day vigil at Rand Corp. in Santa Monica. W.L.A. donated \$25.00.

LA 100-43513

"W.L.A. also donated \$50. to CORE.

"\$50 to the Friends Legislative Committee,
\$50 to the National Committee to Abolish the H.U.A.C.

"Sat. March 11 - 10-30 A.M., WLA - Inter-Chapter
Conference - Hope-La Cienega Bldg. - 411 N. La Cienega.

"HANK ZIVETZ, teacher & Exec. Secretary
American Federation of Teachers, spoke about the
comming elections.

"He stated MARY TINGLOFF and RALPH E. RICHARDSON
have done a good job. 'There were some controversial issues,
which created a sense of uncertainty among other members
of the School Board.'

"'The opposition are making some rash charges
against MARY TINGLOFF and RALPH C. RICHARDSON, and they
have been spying on the teachers.'

"'If newspapers tape them on the shoulder, we
will have some opposition, but no money.'

"'They are charged with being spendthrifths,
but have saved the people money.'

"'Because of the School Board's plans \$460,000
was saved.'

"'They saved money on typewriters.'

"'Sept. 1957, when they took over they
cut 10,000, half day sessions.'

"'HAROLD ORR is running against HUGH
C. WILLETT, who won't be hard to beat.'

"'The Headquarters are 932 N. Western
Ave., ETHEL MARVIN is the Campaign Manager.' "

ACTION:

Informant was thoroughly interviewed and could
add nothing further to the above.

LA 100-43513

All necessary action in connection with this memo has been taken by the writer.

The following names are being indexed to this memo:



b6

b7C

OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-43513)

DATE: 3/16/61

FROM: SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: WOMEN FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION (WLA)
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

b6

b7C

b2

b7D

SOURCE	ACTIVITY	RECEIVED	AGENT	LOCATION
--------	----------	----------	-------	----------

[REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past and whose identity should be concealed.	WLA's Council Inter-Chapter Conference, Saturday, 3/11/61, at Hope-La Cienega Hall, 411 North La Cienega, L.A., California.	3/14/61	Writer	[REDACTED]
--	---	---------	--------	------------

See below for location of literature.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

Informant furnished the following handwritten report and literature:

CC: [REDACTED]

100-19333 (COMINFIL RADIO-TV)
62-1664 (HCUA)
100-2700 (WALK FOR DISARMAMENT)
100-34470 (LINUS PAULING)
100-41016 (CCPAE)

100-59001 (JOHN BIRCH)

105-255 (CORE)

ADDITIONAL COPIES
SEE PAGE TWO

100-59001-225
Searched Indexed
Serialized 7/10 Filed 7/10
MARCH 16, 1961
FBI, LOS ANGELES

GGB/sja
(73) *sja*

Read by _____

LA 100-43513

b6

b7C

COPIES CONTINUED



- 1 - New York (REGISTERED)
(Info)
- 1 - Charlotte (REGISTERED)
(Info)
- 1 - San Francisco (REGISTERED)
(Info)

100-60410 (CAA-SRWG)




3/14/61

b6

b7C

b7D

"I attended the Inter' Chapter Conference which was held at the Hope-LA Cienega Hall 411 No La Cienega on Sat. March 11, 1961. Registration of delegates was handled by individual chapters. 

LA 100-43513

"of the Valley Chapter registration. It was almost eleven oclock when the actual conference got underway. MARTHA MINDLIN Council President chaired this portion of the meeting. She made an announcement that the eight page Legislative action Sheet for March 1961, copies of which were made available to everyone attending this Conference, was drawn up by LOUISE BAUERS & her husband. She said that Mrs. BAUERS has been quite ill but she felt she had done an excellent job. The next thing on the program was a demonstration by about twelve women of a typical interim meeting as it would be put on by one of the Chapters.. The discussion in this demonstration was about unemployment. LEAH LONDON acted as Chairman of this demonstration and Valley Chapter members. ILSA WOLFSON & MILDRED SIMON also took part.

"GLENDORA DAWSON of the Central Chapter also took part. LEAH LONDON then announced that we were to assume that three weeks had gone by and this same material was being brought before a panel session of a regular Chapter general meeting. At this time some of those women who had taken part in the previous demonstration went up on the stage and showed how a panel would report to a chapter meeting. LONDON, DAWSON, and SIMON were among those in this affair. They indicated that the unemployment situation is supposed to be getting better but they dont feel that it actually is. DAUSON said that in Calif. as well as in the south more colored people are unemployed than whites. She said this was due to thefact that they hold more of the laboring jobs. Her own husband is a plumber and has been out of work and has been drawing his unemployment benefits. Rather than take some other type of employment which has been offered to him he would rather take this relief money and save his seniority as a plumber.

"During the course of the Conference MARTHA MINDLIN made several announcements including the following.

LA 100-43513

"1. TOM DUGGAN was to show the film 'Operation Abolition' on Monday night March 13, 1961. She said that anyone looking at it could tell by the way it was pieced that it wasn't right. For this reason she felt it should not be shown and she urged everyone to get in touch with the station and protest. -2- On April 1st 1961 there will be another 'Walk for disarmament' this time starting at Hancock Park on Wilshire Blvd. LINUS PAULING, the Quakers, and a group of singers will participate. -3- The Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms is holding a farwell party for FRANK WILKINSON on March 23, 1961 at Baces Hall on North Vermont in Los Angeles, Calif. In making this announcement she burst out crying and tears streamed down her face. She said she didn't know wheather it was the love she had for FRANK WILKINSON or the inustice of the thing that caused the tears.

"4- She said that ROBERT WELCH, Candy maker, is the head of the JOHN BIRCH society and therefore no one in W.L.A. should buy any Welche's Candy. She feels the society is bad and that is getting too strong.

b6

b7C

b7D

"The June awards luncheon will feature awards to JAMES FLOWERS of CORE, and Author CARL SANDBERG.

"After lunch Mrs. MINDLIN introduced the guest speaker Mr COLE BLEASE from Sacramento, Calif. He spoke about various Bills that are before the Calif. state Legislature. Bills that he was in favor of would abolish Capital Punishment, abolish loyalty oaths, would make discrmination in all housing illegal. He was against all bills introduced by Assemblyman FRANCIS, the Chapel Bill No. AB-205 would overturn ban on

LA 100-43513

"Unreasonable search and seizure in Narcotics Cases and the Shaw Bill S-B 667 which would membership in the Communist Party grounds for disbarment of attorneys.

"He feels that the police are shifting from Communists to narcotic addicts as the target. For example he claims the police arrested a man as a narcotic addict when he was only in fact trying to commit suicide. He also is definitely against the Luckel Bill A-B 22 which would deny the use of school property to groups advocating the overthrow of gov't.

b6

b7C

b7D

"Among the approximately 75 women present were:

b6

b7C

b7D

LA 100-43513

b6

b7C

b7D

[REDACTED]

Informant made available one copy each of the following literature which she obtained at the Inter-Chapter WLA meeting 3/11/61. She advised that additional copies of each of these publications were available so that each person attending the conference might have at least one:

b2

b7D

1. "In A Nutshell - The Proposed Fair Housing Law, Assembly Bill 801 introduced by Assemblyman AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS." The back page of this four pamphlet indicates that it was issued by the California Committee for Fair Practices, San Francisco. (Location: [REDACTED])

2. "Cuba's Revolution: The First Year," by CARLETON BEALS. Reprint by the Peace Education Program, American Friends Service Committee. (Location: [REDACTED])

3. Four page leaflet, "Legislators From California," issued by the Friends Committee on Legislation. (Location [REDACTED])

4. Sixteen page pamphlet, "The ABC's of Legislative Action," issued by the Friends Committee on Legislation. (Location: [REDACTED])

b2

b7D

5. Leaflet issued by the Committee Against Anti-Semitism and Renazification of West Germany, titled, "An Open Letter to President EISENHOWER." (Location: [REDACTED])

6. WLA Legislative Action Sheet for March, 1961 (Location: [REDACTED])

7. "Constitution and By-Laws of Women for Legislative Action." (Location: [REDACTED])

LA 100-43513

b2

b7D

8. Five page mimeographed "The Personalities in Kennedy's Cabinet," prepared by the Valley Chapter of the WLA. (Location: [REDACTED])

In light of information previously furnished by this informant, the writer made a spot check in the vicinity of 411 North La Cienega during the hours while the above conference was taking place. The following automobiles were noted parked on the Hope-La Cienega Hall's private parking lot adjacent to the north side of that building (sign stated parking was for patrons of the Hope-La Cienega Hall only); unless indicated differently below. Registered owners of cars whose licenses are noted below, were checked through the California State Department of Motor Vehicles, 3500 South Hope, Los Angeles, by SA [REDACTED] on 3/13/61:

b6

b7C

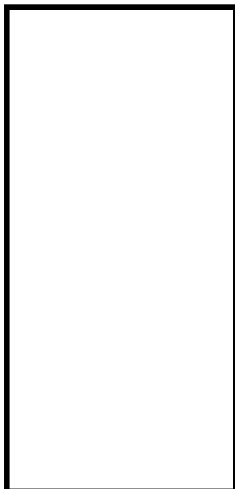
b6

b7C

LA 100-43513



As indicated above, all the above noted cars were parked in the lot belonging to the hall where the above meeting was being held except those cars preceded by an asterisk (*).



This car dropped a female passenger in front of the hall at 12:40 p.m. and the driver kept on going. Female observed entering hall.

The male driver of this car dropped one female passenger at 12:00 Noon and the driver kept going. Female observed entering hall.

A female passenger from this car, a Pontiac 4-door hard-top, pink over black, was observed to park and enter the hall at 12:20 p.m.

At 12:45 p.m. two white middle-aged females left the hall carrying large manila envelopes under their arms, were observed leaving the hall and entering this two-door white Dodge which was parked in the back row of the lot. They had a very hard time maneuvering the car out of the parking area and it was 12:55 before they got clear of their parking space

LA 100-43513

b2

b7D

and 1:01 p.m. before they finally were observed leaving the lot. (It is to be noted that the envelopes they were carrying resembled the one [redacted])

[redacted] These envelopes were furnished the delegates to this Inter-Chapter Conference).

Dropped passengers at 11:56 a.m. Passengers entered hall.

Grey Plymouth. Parked in front at 12:40 p.m. on La Cienega. Driver entered hall.

This car stopped in front at 11:57 a.m. and then drove on south and around the corner parking behind the hall. At 12:01 p.m. two short women, one dressed in a brown suit and the other in a green suit, walked from this parked car and entered the hall.

At 12:06 p.m. the male driver of this car dropped one female passenger who entered the hall. This was a grey Pontiac Bonneville.

The car, a Plymouth was parked in front of the hall prior to 12:45 p.m. At 12:45 p.m. a woman left the hall and entered this car and drove away, south on La Cienega.

This car a grey Corvair. It was parked directly in front of the hall in a one hour zone, for over an hour. It was not noted if the occupants of this automobile entered the hall.

Agents notes covering the above observations, and containing some additional descriptive information about most of the cars mentioned above will be maintained as an exhibit in the 1-A of 100-43513.

LA 100-43513

ACTION:

b6

b7C

b7D

Informant was thoroughly interviewed and could furnish no additional information, except to identify a photograph of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who attended this meeting and who informant had understood was [REDACTED]

In view of statements by [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

[REDACTED] it is recommended that this case be reopened in order to advise the Bureau of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] No active investigation has ever been conducted on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] however, there are several subversive references to each in the indices of this office; therefore, it is recommended that a 100- [REDACTED] case file be opened on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and the file on [REDACTED] be opened as passport cases in order that the Bureau maybe advised of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Recommend both [REDACTED] cases be assigned the writer.

The following names are being indexed to this memo:

b6

b7C

LA 100-43513

b6

b7C



Informantion copies of this memo are being sent to Charlotte, New York and San Francisco as it contains information regarding CARL SANDBURG resident of Flat Rock, North Carolina; CORE: and [redacted] in the territories of the respective offices.

All other necessary action in connection with this memo has been taken by the writer.

Assemblyman Asks U.S. Birch Society Inquiry

Will Introduce Resolution Requesting Atty. Gen. Kennedy to Start Action

BY JERRY GILLAM, Times Sacramento Bureau
SACRAMENTO—The State Legislature today will be asked to request the U.S. attorney general to investigate the John Birch Society and determine if it is a subversive, un-American organization.

Assemblyman Gordon H. Winton Jr. (D-Merced) said he will introduce a resolution asking Atty. Gen. Kennedy to conduct the probe and find out if the society should be added to a master list of subversive groups operating in the United States. "It frightens me," Winton said of the ultra-right-wing organization that asserts it is organized to fight communism.

May Be More Dangerous
 "The society may be more dangerous than communism because it looks either toward anarchy or fascism in the United States but I'm not sure which," he added.

Winton said this danger is even more pressing because the Birchers are "cloaked with an aura of respectability."

He criticized charges by the society that former Presidents Roosevelt and Eisenhower were tools of the Communists while holding the highest elective office in this country.

The Democrat legislator said, "Any organization whose prime purpose is to destroy confidence in elected officials is dangerous."

Praises Times Series

Winton praised The Times' series on the Birch Society as "excellent" and "a fine public service." He stated he thinks the articles "alerted the people by pulling some of the cloak of re-

spectability off of this organization."

Winton also disclosed that Atty. Gen. Mosk intended to ask for the same investigation if the Legislature did not do so.

Mosk confirmed this remark by telephone and pointed out that he still will request the U.S. attorney general to look into the matter if the lawmakers ask him to make such a request, despite the resolution.

"If they want me to do it, I will," Mosk said.

Discussed With Brown

He also reported that he met with Gov. Brown late Tuesday afternoon to discuss the activities of the society in California but indicated any statement on this meeting would have to come from Brown's office.

"I have nothing specific to say at this time," Mosk said.

The governor's office said that Brown only repeated his instructions to Mosk to prepare a factual report on the Birchers at this meeting.

Meanwhile, Assemblyman John A. O'Connell (D-San Francisco) introduced another resolution Wednesday that denounced the tactics used by the society in its fight against the Communists.

Text of Resolution

"The resolution said: 'Whereas, the John Birch Society is an organization founded by Robert H. W. Welch Jr., of Belmont, Mass., for the alleged purpose of combatting the influence of communism in the United States; and—

'Whereas, the fostering of national loyalty and patriotism is a worthy aim, but some of the methods used by the John Birch Society are as un-American in their way as many employed by a subversive organization; and—

'Whereas, the semi-secret document entitled 'The Politician,' written and circulated by Robert Welch, is replete with accusations and insinuations that various men in public office are deliberately leading the United States toward communism; and—

'Whereas, it is even charged in 'The Politician'

that former President Eisenhower is a dedicated Communist agent, and that former President Roosevelt was guilty of 'plain unadulterated treason' against the United States; and—

'Whereas, such scurrilous and irresponsible attacks are to be deplored by clear-thinking Americans and condemned by all those who hold the cause of liberty truly dear; and—

'Whereas, the John Birch Society has been unusually active in California lately, attacking the methods, motives, and morals of those with whom it disagrees, al-

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 3-23-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK B. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

b6

b7C

100-59001-226

SEARCHED INDEXED
 SERIALIZED Mo FILED Mo
 MAR 23 1961

ANGELES

JST

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/6

ways in the name of pure
patriotism;

"Now, therefore, be it re-
solved by the Assembly of
the State of California, that
the members hereby de-
nounce the divisive, coercive
and un-American tactics em-
ployed by the John Birch So-
ciety and its adherents."

Winton is included among
4 co-authors who joined
Connell in introducing this
resolution.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-43513) DATE: 3/27/61

FROM: SA [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

SUBJECT: WOMEN FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION (WLA)
IS - C

SOURCE	ACTIVITY	RECEIVED	AGENT	LOCATION
[REDACTED]	Los Angeles Chapter Conference of WLA, 3/11/61.	3/16/61	writer	[REDACTED]

who has furnished reliable information in the past and whose identity should be concealed.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

Informant furnished the following written report:

"Date, March 11, 1961
Place, Hope - La Cienga Bldg., 411 N. La Cienga Blvd.
Time, 10-30 A.M. - 3-30 P.M.
Feature, Women For Legislative Action, Inter-Chapter Conference (WLA)
Guest Speaker - COLBERT BLEASE, Lobbyist for Friends Committee.

Sponsor, WLA
Attendance, 120, among those present were:

cc: 1 - San Francisco [REDACTED] - REGISTERED

b6

b7C

100-59001-227

Searched	Indexed
Serialized	Filed
MARCH 27, 1961	
FBI, LOS ANGELES	

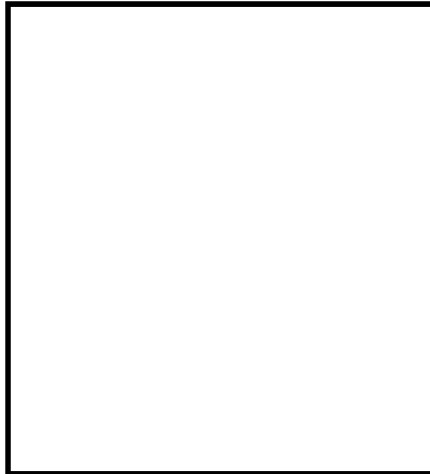
100-59001 (JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)

CEW/slp
(17) slp

Read by

CEW

LA 100-43513



b6

b7C

b7D



"There were discussions and reports on current events from the different group leaders. Some one remarked that the economy of this country is in trouble, and that we are in a third recession since 1949.

"Bankrupcy is rising and we are suffering from a planned economy.

"This could lead to war.

"Someone quoted from ALLEN DULLES, 'We are committing economic and political suicide.' At this point LEAH LONDON interrupted by saying, 'That communist.'

"There were remarks about the cost of keeping military forces abroad.

"The labor management committee is not doing enough.

"Automation replacing labor, which is very bad.

"There should be good housing at low costs.

"On the national scene, Relief Measure, H.R. 2-865, is a good bill, as it is for the relief for children of unemployed parents.

"Good bill is Senate #1, which is aid to distressed

LA 100-43513

"areas but does not include California.

"The unemployment Bill was just passed.

"The food stamp plan. Proposed by President JOHN F. KENNEDY, is a good plan.

"There should be more money for teachers.

"There should be loans made to students who want a college education but have not enough money for it.

"There should be more schools built as this gives more work to people.

"JAMES ROOSEVELT, said there should be work for 6,000,000, unemployed youth, at present, with 360,000 more coming up this year.

"We should have 250,000 new jobs created a year.

"The outlook for the future is not hopeful, because automation has a bad effect on unemployment.

"There should be a billion dollar employment plan, housing, building etc.

"We turned down a contract with Republic of China, which was just signed by Canada, for thousands of dollars worth of merchandize.

"Governor BROWN in his last speech did not mention unemployment, someone phoned his office & they mentioned the Shaw bill, which does not help unemployment.

"We should have Free Trade with this World.

"JULIA SHERMAN said, 'The minority group, the percentage of unemployed Negroes is two to one of the unskilled workers.'

"President KENNEDY should make no discrimination of unskilled labor.'

"The Unions favor white people as trainees for labor.'

"We should encourage and give greater opportunity to Negroes the opportunity for higher learning.'

LA 100-43513

"Provisions should be made to encourage minority groups for a higher education and training.' 'This should be tied up with education and employment and housing because many employers will not employ a worker who does not live within ten miles radius.'

"The Housing related to unemployment, Hawkins Bill A.B. 801, is a good bill, write your senator to support this Bill.'

"We should boycott all Japaneze goods.'

"Mr. COLBAN BLEASE, Lobbyist for Friends Committee, remarked, that, well planned and well written letters, were always read by Senators, Congressmen, etc.

"There are several new bills introduced to date, one on Civil Liberties & one on Capital Punishment. Los Angeles is a disaster area on Narcotics, and something should be done about it, but there are more alcoholics in San Francisco than there are drug addicts in Los Angeles.

"The penalties on dope, and different kinds of drug addicts, should be considered and treated differently.

"Senate Bill - #81-82 - Shaw, Fishbein and Kahan. Drug addicts should carry a card stating that they are drug addicts and if they move, they should report their change of address to the Police Station.

"Bad Bills - 205-208.

"The Birch (JOHN) SOCIETY is a right wing movement and favors MC CARTHYISM, it should be stopped.

"There are two good bills on Public Schools - A.S. Bill 22 & 1559.

"The Capital Punishment Bill AB-1507.

"There are 33 in the death row at present. The District Attorney stepped up these cases to get convictions. Vote no.

"The Loyalty Oath - Support.

"Write Gov. BROWN to support A.B. 801.

LA 100-43513

"MARTHA MINDLIN, asked us to vote for the present members of the Board of Education, RALPH E. RICHARDSON and MARY TINGLOFF and HAROLD E. ORR.

"She announced there would be a benefit dinner for FRANK WILKINSON March 18, 6:30 at the First Unitarian Church, Cost \$1.50.

"She also announced that Channel 13 on the TOM DUGGAN Show would have the 'Operation Abolition' showing of the Student Riots in San Francisco and asked those present to write to the sponsors & tell them what they thought of the manner in which this picture was misrepresented."

ACTION:

Informant was thoroughly interviewed and could add nothing further to the above.

All necessary action in connection with this memo has been taken by the writer.

The following names are being indexed to this memo:



b6

b7C

TRUE COPY

March 17, 1961

b6

b7C

Dear Mr. Hoover,

Just a word of encouragement and appreciation for the fine work you are doing for our country. Being a mere member of the John Birch Society which is under attack from our "Liberal" friends I realize more clearly the difficulties and, yes, heartaches you have been through. I hope you will have strength and spirit to carry on.

We have a small book store in a nearby community carrying quite a bit of anti-communist literature and I should like to ask for 10 copies of your FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, March 1960, or other material that might help in the cause of a Free America. (They have your book)

With Sincere Best Wishes

/s

b6

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/jm

b6

b7C

100-59001-228

WLO

WLO

[Handwritten signature]

March 28, 1961

b6

b7C

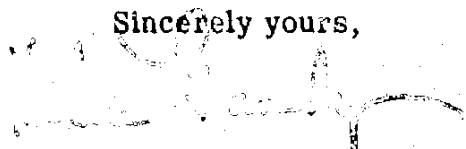


Dear 

Your letter of March 17, 1961, was received during the absence of Mr. Hoover from Washington, and I am acknowledging it for him. I know he will appreciate your generous comments.

With regard to your request, I must advise that our supply of the publication you mentioned is exhausted.

Sincerely yours,


Helen W. Gandy
Secretary


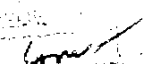
① - Los Angeles - Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-86 BY SP4-BSM/JM

b6

b7C



 100-5901229


UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES 100-60891

DATE: 3/24/61

b6

b7C

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM
Information Concerning

On 3/24/61 [REDACTED] California advised as follows: He is attempting to form a group in [REDACTED] to be known as the "Young Americans for Freedom". This group has as its sole purpose the combating of Communism and preserving democracy. He stated that it is a National Organization. The local officers are [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

[REDACTED] furnished the attached sheets which have to do with the organization and structure of this group.

[REDACTED] mentioned that [REDACTED] named [REDACTED] had arranged to have [REDACTED] speak at [REDACTED]. The date for the speech was suddenly cancelled by [REDACTED] and when [REDACTED] talked to [REDACTED] as to the reason for the cancellation, she was advised by him to give up her anti-Communist activities and that there would be no anti-Communist speakers at [REDACTED] at least during the remainder of this year. (LINUS PAULING spoke there about three weeks ago).

b6

b7C

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] John Birch Society and has been connected with [REDACTED] in the past. He stated that he was calling on this office to acquaint the FBI with his activities and to advise of his willingness to co-operate with the FBI to the fullest extent at all times.

b6

b7C

CC
100-59001

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

100-59001-230

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

07

Assembly's Planned Birch Hearing Fizzles Into Echo

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — Assembly attacks on the ultra-conservative John Birch Society evaporated today without so much as a hiss.

The lower chamber rules committee had set the stage for a full dress hearing on two resolutions attacking the right-wing group, and had even investigated the possibility of moving its bi-weekly session to a larger committee room.

Then, suddenly ...

Committee Chairman Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Los Angeles) told a reporter that he was going to suggest the two resolutions be withdrawn.

"THEY HAVEN'T got the votes to get the resolutions out of committee," Hawkins said.

Hawkins spoke to both authors — Assemblymen Gordon I. Winton (D-Merced) and John A. O'Connell (D-San Francisco) — and then announced the commit-

tee hearing was postponed indefinitely.

"Does this mean they go the bottom of the box?" he was asked. (Putting a bill at the bottom of the box is one way of killing it in the Legislature. It takes a major effort to get it up for consideration again.)

"Yes," Hawkins answered, "although we may take them up at a later date."

NEITHER assemblyman was anxious to comment on the sudden action postponing or perhaps even killing their resolutions. Winton conceded that he didn't have enough votes to get his measure out of committee and said he saw no point in pursuing a losing cause.

But the society faces an investigation by the state Senate Committee on Un-American Activities. Chairman Hugh Burns (D-Fresno) announced last week that he would call hearings this summer to investigate the society.

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 3-30-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR ARTHUR LARO

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

100-59001-231

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 30 1961	
LOS ANGELES	

b6

b7C

Hiestand Says Reds

Smear Birch

Solons in Row on Society

THE PROS AND CONS—
Rep. Hiestand defends the Birch Society and reveals he is a member ... Governor Brown speaks in opposition ... NAM tells censure of group—see stories—A-4.

WASHINGTON, March 31 (AP) — Criticism in Congress and elsewhere of the John Birch Society brought a cry today from a member—who also sits in Congress — that Communists are promoting a "smear" of the ultra-rightist organization.

Even as a Justice Department spokesman said the Society's activities are a matter of concern there, Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, Republican of California, called a news conference and declared:

"My advice is for people not to sound off before they have all the facts."

Before talking with reporters, Hiestand, who disclosed yesterday his affiliation with the Society, had a telephone conversation with its founder, Robert H. W. Welch Jr., of Belmont, Mass.

Welch is a retired candy maker who founded the society in 1948. His personal targets include former President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Chief Justice Earl Warren. Welch has called Eisen-

hower a Red and says Warren should be impeached.

OUT OF CONTEXT

Hiestand said he did not agree with Welch as to Eisenhower or Warren.

But, he said, the remarks about Eisenhower had "been made several years ago and were taken out of context" by those now quoting them.

Hiestand said there were also other society policy statements he disagreed with, but added:

"I choose to stay because the society as a whole is a 98 per cent dedicated anti-Communist group. To me it would seem to have a better chance of successful achievement than any of the other sound and fine patriotic groups of which I know."

Hiestand, when disclosing his own membership yesterday, had said there were other members of Congress in the society but did not name them.

Today, he named Rep. John Rousselot, Republican of California, as another member of Congress active in the society and said "I am quite sure there are others."

In response to questions Hiestand said of the society:

1. He doesn't know how many members or chapters it has now, but the goal is 100,000 members this year.
2. He has been "informed" there are several society chapters in Washington, but doesn't "know the facts" as to that.
3. The society is not a secret one but the identity of members is kept confidential to protect them for "persecution and attack."

Hiestand said he belongs to the "home" chapter of the society which he described as nationwide chapter direct-

ly under Welch. He referred to Welch as "the founder" in all references to him during the news conference.

Hiestand described the society members as "violent, emphatic, dedicated anti-Communists" but contended that not more than 2 per cent "might be considered extremists."

He said growing criticism of the group and public figures was part of a "pro-Communist smear" and was proof of the society's success in fighting Communism.

IN BACKGROUND

In response to a question, he said he was unable to identify any Communists among those who were criticizing the society.

"But they are in the background of the smear," he added.

Hiestand said the major aim of the society is to spread information about the Communist conspiracy, through letters to Congressmen and other methods.

Another congressman, Rep. Gordon H. Scherer, Republican of Ohio, said he is not a member of the Society but has "looked favorably on this organization."

Scherer expressed this view in a letter to Rep. Leslie C. Arends of Illinois, assistant GOP leader in the House.

Scherer, a member of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, told a reporter that Arends had asked him for a fill-in on the Society.

PRO-AMERICAN

"It's (the Society's) membership is composed of conservatives and anti-Communists, and it is a basically pro-American organization," Scherer wrote.

"In Cincinnati (Scherer's home city) many of our outstanding citizens are members of the local chapter."

A number of members of Congress have urged investigations of the Birch Society's activities. There have been attacks on some members of

LOS ANGELES EVENING
HERALD-EXPRESS
DATE 3-31-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR Herbert H. Krauch
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY 494-DS/ajm

100-59001-232

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

b6
b7C

Congress, carried out chiefly through letters to other organizations and individuals.

The public denunciations of the group by Congress members have tended to focus, however, on Welch's expressed suspicions of the patriotism of Eisenhower, Warren and numerous other national figures.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The statement that the group's activities are a matter of concern to Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy was made by the Justice Department

spokesman in response to an inquiry as to whether the Department planned any action. He would not elaborate and there was no direct statement from Kennedy.

Heads of various congressional investigating committees heard calls from some of their colleagues yesterday for investigations of the Birch Society. But there was no indication that any of the committees was inclined to leap into an inquiry.

Rep. Francis E. Walter, Democrat of Pennsylvania, chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, questioned that his committee had authority to launch such an investigation. He made the point that the complaints he has received have been against what the complainants regarded as slurs and libels of individuals—not complaints of activities against the government.

The recourse by individuals against slander is in the courts, Walter noted.

Legal authorities feel the activities of the Society pose a real constitutional problem, stemming from the guarantees of freedom of speech.

Thus, the extremely cautious approach to possible federal investigations.

The Supreme Court has held the constitutional guarantee in this field is not all-inclusive, having stated that the freedom does not extend to crying a false fire alarm in a crowded theater.

In relation to libel, the federal government has no direct concern, since this is a matter usually threshed out in a

damage action brought by a private individual or group of individuals.

A special problem appears to be posed at the Justice Department, which has the dual prime responsibilities for protecting the internal security of the country and also seeing to it that all citizens enjoy the freedoms guaranteed by the constitution, including the freedom of speech.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover spoke out today against "reckless charges" and "vigilante action" in a signed editorial in the FBI law enforcement bulletin.

Hoover did not mention the John Birch Society, and FBI spokesmen declined comment on whether the society was an intended target. Hoover wrote:

"The job of curtailing and containing Communism is one for legally constituted authorities with the steadfast co-operation of every loyal citizen.

"This is neither the time for inaction nor vigilante action . . .

"Attributing every adversity to Communism is not only irrational, but contributes to hysteria and fosters groundless fears . . ."

The society is named for a Baptist missionary who served as an army intelligence officer in the Far East in World War II. The society says Birch was killed by Chinese Communists 10 days after the end of the war.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, told a reporter he would ask the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee to investigate the society and its leaders. Dodd joined Sen. Thomas Kuchel, Republican of California, in denouncing the organization yesterday in the Senate.

Dodd, a member of the subcommittee who often serves as its acting chairman, is one of the Senate's most outspoken anti-Communists.

Kuchel said Welch has called Eisenhower "a card-carrying Communist," and that this is "a fantastic and incredible libel."

"Good God," Kuchel said, "should the American people permit this kind of spleen to be poured on a man who has dedicated his whole life to freedom?" He said Chief Justice Earl Warren was "another great American" the society has tried to besmirch.

ASKS APOLOGY

Kuchel, who has been attacked by the society himself, said Welch should be called before a Senate committee and asked the basis for "these miserable charges."

The committee, he said, should "make him apologize, not alone to Eisenhower and

Warren, but to the people of this country."

Dodd said Welch's charges against Eisenhower, Warren, former Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman and others are "an affront to both decency and intelligence."

Sen. James O. Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi, chairman of the Internal Security Subcommittee, said he had not so far been asked to investigate the Birch Society.

In Boston, Col. Lawrence Bunker, a director of the Birch Society, was asked about the Welch charge

against Eisenhower in a CBS radio interview.

Bunker, a Boston lawyer and onetime aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, said "the article, or the letter, which has been widely quoted about Dwight D. Eisenhower, was written by Mr. Welch long before the society was organized. It was circulated confidentially to a very limited number of people."

"It was never intended for publication and has not become a part of the society's documents or publications, as far as I know."

Bunker also was asked about the demand for impeachment of Warren. He replied:

"That is a well-documented statement which has occupied a good deal of space in a number of the club's bulletins, or the society's bulletins, and I would not want to go into any particular detail other than to say that it seems to be thoroughly substantiated as a proposition, and certainly designed to bring to the notice of the American people,

Birch Group Withholds Comment

BELMONT, Mass., March 31 (UPI)—The John Birch Society had no comment today on a series of critical reports.

A spokesman for Robert Welch, founder and leader of the arch-conservative anti-Communist organization headquartered at his home here, said he was "not available" to newsmen and would have "no comment at this time."

Welch's spokesman refused to comment on criticism by the National Association of Manufacturers, a Justice Department statement that the society had become "a matter of concern," and criticism by Sens. Thomas J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, and Thomas H. Kuchel, Republican of California.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

Justice

Dept.

'Concerned'

About

John

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 3-31-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Arthur Hare

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/jm

100-59001-233

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <u>no</u>	FILED <u>no</u>
MAR 31 1961	
LOS ANGELES	

gdt

b6

b7C

Birch Society

U.S. May Probe Birch Society

Cal. Rep. Hiestand Defends Membership in Organization

BY PAUL WEEKS, Mirror Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—A Justice Department spokesman said today the John Birch Society has become a "matter of concern to the attorney general."

Asked if the department planned any action, the spokesman said:

A growing number of inquiries which the Justice Department has received about the John Birch Society has made it a matter of concern to the attorney general."

He declined to go beyond that brief statement. There was no direct comment from Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy.

Amid rising controversy over the ultra-conservative society, Rep. Edgar Hiestand, California Republican from Altadena, defended his membership. But he said he will not subscribe to any movement to impeach Chief Justice Warren.

"I see nothing that would indicate the organization is in favor of dictatorship, Fascism or subversion," Hiestand said. "It is a group of dedicated patriots fighting communism—is that bad?"

Hiestand said that "maybe a half dozen congressmen" are members of the society, "but I couldn't tell you off-hand who they are." Rep. Rousselot (R-Cal.) said he once was an honor-

ary member of the group but didn't know if he still is considered an active member.

IN THE SENATE Thursday, Sen. Kuchel (R-Cal.) urged that body to investigate the John Birch Society.

He accused Welch of a "fantastic and incredible libel" for charging that former President Eisenhower was "a card-carrying Communist."

Sen. Dodd (D-Conn.), vice chairman of the Senate Internal Security Committee, joined Kuchel's denunciation.

DODD'S challenge of the organization came as a surprise because his committee had been answering inquiries about the society with a form letter saying it appears to be a patriotic organization fighting communism.

Meantime, in the House, Rep. Reuss (D-Wis.) said the House Un-American Activities committee chairman, Rep. Walter (D-Pa.) had

turned down his request to investigate the society.

The National Assn. of Manufacturers disclosed today it had, in effect, censured the society in a board resolution adopted last September.

CHARLES SLIGH JR., executive vice president, said the three former NAM presidents listed as members of the council of the society participated in drawing up the NAM resolution, which was passed unanimously.

It affirmed the NAM's confidence in Eisenhower and said the organization "does not and will not knowingly be associated with any individual or be a party to any organization that questions the loyalty and integrity of President Eisenhower."

HIESTAND, who said he was besieged for further information about his membership after he revealed it Thursday, told The Mirror he has been a dues-paying member "since late 1958 or early 1959," which costs him \$2 a month.

"It's not a secret organization — as far as I'm concerned," he said.

Hiestand sent a memorandum to some of his legislative friends on Capitol Hill urging them not to "sound off about the society until you have the facts."

THE MEMO went on to

say that "you may look foolish when the facts are in. Any anti-Communist person or group, getting to the point where it hurts, is subject to smear, unfounded charges, lies and vilification."

"A lot of fine people around the country have attacked the society on the basis of misinformation about it," he said.

"The charges of the founder (Robert Welch) are now being called the beliefs of the society," said Hiestand. "What the founder said years before the society was formed doesn't necessarily reflect the aims or objectives of the society or its members now."

Hiestand added that he doesn't "have to subscribe to the founder's beliefs or the society's in entirety, any more than I would subscribe to the whole Republican Party platform or to all Republicans' beliefs."

He said he has never served as an officer in the organization.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-86 BY SP4-BJA/PM

Hiestand Defends Anti-Red Society

Letter to Solons Tells Why He Is Member

Special to Herald-Express

WASHINGTON, March 31—Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, Altadena, today revealed he is a member of the John Birch Society.

Rep. Hiestand, California Republican, stated: "... I am heartily back of the society, for what it is — a group of dedicated, patriotic, anti-Communists, fighting the Communist conspiracy...."

Hiestand's membership became public with disclosure of a confidential letter he sent to some congressional colleagues. The letter follows:

"CONFIDENTIAL"

Dear Colleague:
"Don't sound off—until you know the facts. You may look foolish when the facts are known."

The John Birch Society is purely voluntary (unlike unions) anyone can join—or resign.

"I don't agree with everything the founder has said or done, or says or does, any more than I agree with all Republicans do or say."

"However, I am heartily back of the society, for what it is—a group of dedicated, patriotic, anti-Communists, fighting the Communist conspiracy by advocating less government, more responsibility and a better world."

"Any anti-communist person or group getting to the point where it hurts, is subject to smear, unfounded charges, lies and vilification (note House un-American Activities committee). The criticism of 'methods' reminds you of the charges against

the HUAC, the Senate subcommittee on internal security, Joe McCarthy and the FBI.

"True, the founder made some charges privately—long before the society was formed—but the pro-Commies, taking some out of context, are trying to hang that on the society."

"The Daily Worker, during the McCarthy squabble, had this to say, 'There is no such thing as the Communist menace.' The People's World, Communist press organ on the West Coast, last month discussed the 'society's 'cell' method of organizing and founder Welch as 'absolute boss of the society.'"

"FACT: The society has chapters, not 'cells.'"

"FACT: The society is a group of rugged individualists, as I know them, and will not take arbitrary orders from anyone. Cries of 'dictatorship' and 'Facism' are incorrect, if not ludicrous. For example, Welch wrote in the

December, 1960 society bulletin:

"... Let us repeat here our frequent warning: do not carry out any of our requests which are disapproved by your own conscience... We do not want anybody, ever, to do anything for the John Birch Society which he or she does not earnestly want to do. These, then, are glimpses of the other side. Let me urge you — do not speak out against any patriotic organization until the facts are in. Thanks."

LOS ANGELES EVENING
HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 3-31-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Herbert A. Krauch

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/TM

b6

b7C

100-57001-234
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAR 31 1961

ELLS
981

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ASAC W. M. ALEKANDER

DATE: 3/31/61

FROM : SAC W. G. SIMON

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

b6

b7C

Re memo of SA [redacted] dated 3/31/61.

At 10:50 A.M., I spoke with Mr. WICK of the Bureau. He stated that Mr. HOOVER has not made any statement concerning the John Birch Society. He explained that what has happened is that the Director has an editorial in the 4/1/61 issue of the Law Enforcement Bulletin pointing out the need for Americans to understand the Communist movement and pointing out the undesirability of vigilante action. The wire services have taken this editorial and have indicated that it refers to the John Birch Society. Mr. HOOVER has not made reference to any organization whatsoever in his editorial.

Mr. WICK stated that if any inquiries are received they should be handled on a strictly "No Comment" basis.

ASAC ALEXANDER and Supervisor [redacted] have been so informed.

b6

b7C

This memo should be circulated to the Night Supervisor and to Supervisors [redacted] and [redacted] and to personnel on complaint duty.

WGS:gmw
(1)

100-59001

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/mj

b6

b7C

*Weekend duty
Agents advised
3.31.61-*

100-59001-235/a

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED...no	FILED...no
MAR 31 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Handwritten initials and signatures]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC

DATE: 3-31-61

FROM: [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

b6
b7C
b7D

[REDACTED] a confidential source of SA [REDACTED] called in just now and in absence of SA [REDACTED] she told me that last evening she heard a radio dipatch (she thinks it was KNX) quoting JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, head of FBI, as characterizing the BIRCH SOCIETY as a vigilante-like group and that there there is no place in this country for an organization of this type. [REDACTED] says both she and her husband heard the radio report again this morning over the news. She wanted to know if the report is correct.

b6
b7C

She was advised that I had not heard the news dispatch and had no information on the matter.

It is noted, however, that [REDACTED] in the SI room advises she heard substabtially the same news report over KFWB 7 oclock news, 3/31/61.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/km

100-59001-235

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Welch Denies Calling Eisenhower Communist

Birch Society Founder Says Opinion Was
Expressed in Private, Confidential Letter

BELMONT, Mass. (AP) — Robert Welch, founder of the ultra-rightist John Birch Society, denied Friday that he ever called former President Eisenhower a "card-carrying Communist."

When asked in an interview whether he ever did view Mr. Eisenhower as a Red agent, he replied:

"I never had that opinion, I never thought it then with firmness enough to publish it or to say it in public and I don't today."

Comment Asked

The latter exchange came when a reporter asked him to comment on the following statement published in a book comprising what Welch calls a "private confidential letter written years ago":

"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

The book—or letter—also describes former Presidents Truman and Roosevelt and the late Secretary of State Dulles as tools of communism. When asked about this he told a reporter he had said "they were being used by the Communists—I never said they were Communists and I don't say it now."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

PART 1 PAGE 4

001-1-2

John Birch Society

cc - Bureau

4/1/61

Ry

100-59001-236

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED *mo* FILED *mo*

APR 1 1961

GELES

EST

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

b6

b7C

writings have I ever called former President Eisenhower a 'card-carrying' Communist."

But Welch said he did write a "private confidential letter" some years ago "in which I stated in the blunt language of a personal letter some harsh personal opinions of our then-President. . . ."

Read by Founders

He said that letter made it clear "that I had no quarrel with anybody who wished to attribute his (Eisenhower's) actions simply to political opportunism."

Welch said his letter was read by most of the men who founded the Birch Society in 1958 and was "specifically disavowed by the group as being no part of the material of belief of the John Birch Society in any way."

Welch also said he made clear in a book he wrote that "I did not think either Roosevelt or Truman were Communists or sympathizers in any way with ultimate Communist aims."

Intends to Continue

As to the society, Welch said:

"Our only 'crime' is fighting communism. And that we intend to continue until our side wins."

Welch added the society has "broken no law, violated no moral principles, and has as a firmly-stated foundation of its program that even good ends never justify bad means."

Referring in the interview to the "private confidential letter," Welch said he originally sent it to "a few friends." They asked for copies to be sent to others, he said, and added:

"I kept adding to it and got more requests and the letter eventually grew to 80,000 words. That is why the letter came to be called a book."

Strong in California

Welch declined to say how many members the society has. But he did say it is strongest in California, Texas, Arizona and Tennessee, and that it has no chapters at all in 15 states, including Pennsylvania.

He said there are 25 "chapters" in Massachusetts, and that the society tried to keep a chapter at 10 to 20 members.

However, he said sometimes they are larger.

Issued Statement

The interview with Welch, in the headquarters of the Birch Society here, took place after he issued a prepared statement "offered as an effort to pierce . . . some of the incredible fog of falsehood now being so widely circulated about me."

Welch said in the statement he does not think Truman and Roosevelt were Communists "or sympathizers in any way with ultimate Communist aims."

Welch, a retired 61-year-old candy manufacturer, said "the John Birch Society is not, simply because we have sought to avoid publicity, thereby a secret organization."

Personal Opinion

"Our objective has been to build strength and understanding instead of creating noise," he said. "All of our materials are wide open for anybody to purchase."

Welch said "nowhere in my private or published

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK WALLACE

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

PART 1 PAGE 4

COL 1-2

'GLORY' DOUBTED

Birch Death Story Told by Broadcaster

BILLINGS, Mont. (UPI)—A Billings broadcaster who served in China with John Birch said Saturday the namesake of the controversial ultra-conservative John Birch Society was no hero and did not die in glory.

Joseph S. Sample, who was in the same Office of Strategic Services detachment as Birch when Birch met death at the hands of the Chinese Communists 10 days after the end of World War II said Birch's brash manners probably led to his death. Sample is president of KOOK radio and TV in Billings.

Sample recalled his associations with Birch in a story under his by-line in the "Weekly Yellowstone News."

Name Selected

Robert Welch, retired Massachusetts candy maker who founded and heads the John Birch Society chose the name because Birch was regarded as the first American to die at the hands of the Chinese Reds after World War II.

"Birch was a man with no particularly distinguishing characteristics — a little stiff, perhaps, with a not very high regard for the Chinese, and somewhat self-important, but nothing un-

usual," Sample recalled. "If he had strong political convictions, they were not in evidence."

In the summer of 1945, when civil war appeared inevitable in China, Birch was assigned a mission in Central China, Sample said. The small team consisted of a staff sergeant, radio operator, interpreter and code clerk.

Reds Disturbed

"The mission should have been routine," Sample said, except that when it arrived at its designated area it was met by a force of Chinese Reds.

"The Chinese were understandably disturbed by what seemed to them an unwarranted intrusion into their area and demanded an explanation.

"Cap. Birch chose to attempt to bluff his way out of a difficult situation. Harsh words led to insults, and insults to arrogance. Finally, in a fit of rage, the Chinese Communist leader shot Birch.

"The remainder of the team was released and returned to Kunming after an arduous trip on foot which consumed several weeks.

"The news of Birch's death created a sensation at OSS headquarters, primarily because of the irony of his being killed after the war was over."

Sample said the Birch mission was not the first contact American forces had made with the Chinese Communists, nor was it the last.

"While succeeding OSS teams were more careful in their dealings with the Chinese Communists," Sample said, "there was no real object lesson in Birch's death and certainly no glory."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-2-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Nick B. Williams

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

b6

b7C

100-59001-237

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 2 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

87

Birch Society Chief Requests Senate Probe

BELMONT, Mass. (AP) — Robert Welch, founder of the controversial John Birch Society, disclosed Saturday he has asked the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee to investigate the organization.

Welch's secretary made public a night letter which was wired Friday night to Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), subcommittee chairman.

In it Welch promised "none of our members will plead the 5th Amendment" and asserted the society's "only 'crime' is fighting communism."

Welch said in his wire to Eastland:

"Because of the charges now being so widely circulated about us, some of which

For an account of John Birch's death, see Page 6, Section A.

are extreme distortions of fact, and many of which are sheer fabrications, the John Birch Society respectfully requests an official investigation by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee of which you are chairman . . ."

"In the course of such an investigation we hope to be able to present to your committee, and through your committee to the American people, the simple truth about the John Birch Society . . ."

In Washington, Eastland told a reporter he had received Welch's telegram and said, "I will take it up with the subcommittee as quickly as I can."

Because Congress is taking an Easter recess, Eastland said it might not be possible to hold a subcommittee meeting next week.

Asked whether he personally favors an investigation of the society, Eastland said he didn't think it proper for him to express an opinion now.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/bm

LOS ANGELES TIMES
DATE 4-2-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR Nick B. Williams
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-59-00 BY 100-238

b6

b7C

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 3 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC

DATE: 4/3/61

b6

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b7C

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

b7D

Information Concerning.

On the night of 4/1/61 [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

b7D

[REDACTED] Santa Barbara contacted the writer. He advised that he had information that he and [REDACTED] believed would be of interest to the FBI. He stated that the following information must be considered confidential and he was assured that any disclosures he furnished would be accepted in confidence by this bureau.

He stated as follows: [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

100-59001

[REDACTED]

1 - John Birch Society(100-59001)

1 - ~~SBF~~ (100-60755)

100-59001-239

b6
b7C
b7D

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

It is noted that two groups, not college approved, exist on the campus at UCSF. One is the Freedom Club. The other is Santa Barbara Student Civil Liberties Committee. The Freedom Club appears to be a conservative group and for its aims and objectives reference may be made to SA [REDACTED] memo of recent date reflecting an interview with [REDACTED] at the latter's request.

b6
b7C

The Santa Barbara Student Civil Liberties Committee has been active in picketing and passing out anti-HCUA literature at showings of the film Operation Abolition at local high schools and UCSF during the past three months. This group fostered a talk by Irving Hall, a member of the Bay Area Student Committee for the Abolition of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. It is noted that [REDACTED] subject of LA file 100-60130 ^{is a member of this group.} Hall's talk was made at the Santa Barbara High School auditorium 3/18/61. The group is the subject of LA file 100-60755.

b6
b7C
b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that in view of the controversial nature of the John Birch Society and the two students groups mentioned herein, [REDACTED] felt that this bureau should be apprised of the above on a confidential basis.

b6
b7C
b7D



Cover Sheet for Informant Report or Material
FD-306 (3-21-58)

b6

b7C

b2

b7D

Date received <i>4/6/61</i>	Received from (name or symbol number) 	Received by <i>SE</i> 
--------------------------------	--	---

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☒ in person ☐ by telephone ☐ by mail ☐ orally ☐ recording device ☒ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Dictated _____ to _____

Transcribed _____

Authenticated
by Informant _____

Date of Report

3/28/61

Date(s) of activity

b6

b7C

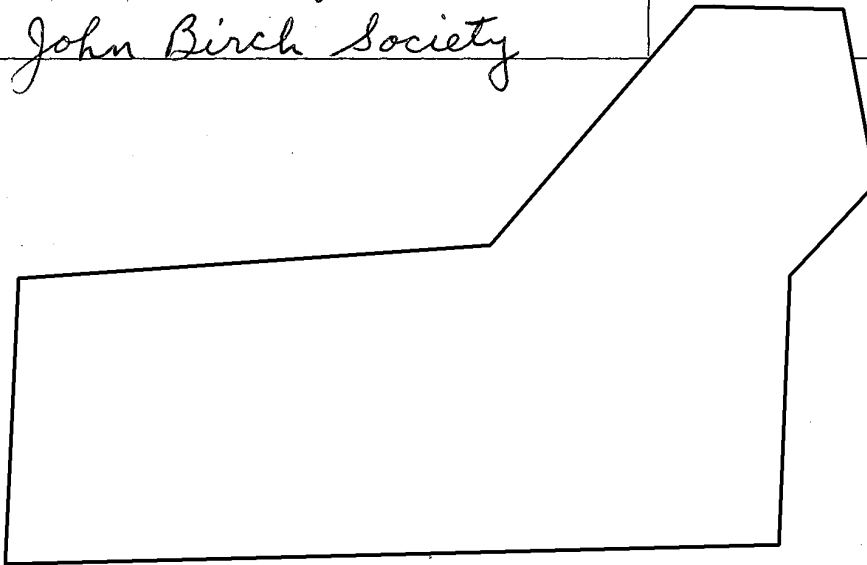
Brief description of activity or material

Tom Duggan Show
Guest Speaker: Abraham Lincoln Wirin
Subject: John Birch Society

File where original is located if not attached

Remarks:

Index:



b6

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *5-8-96* BY *SP4-BJA/KM*

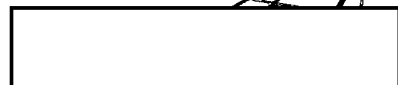
100-59001-240
Block Stamp



b6

b7C

(info)



INTERVIEW

TOM DUGGAN SHOW

Channel 13 TV

Date: 3/28/61

10:30 p.m. - midnight

Guest Speaker: ABRAHAM LINCOLN WIRIN

Chief Counsel for AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Subject: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Duggan :a man I think a great deal of personally. I have a great respect for his abilities and for his intended contributions to our community; however, I disagree with him on many things. It is ABRAHAM LINCOLN WIRIN, Chief Counsel of the AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION of So. Calif. Mr. Wirin, it is nice to have you on the program. The reason Mr. Wirin is here--it was last Saturday that I caught the Ben Hunter Show and Mr. Wirin was discussing the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY with a member of that Society with Ben passing some questions along, and I thought it would be nice to have Mr. Wirin back for audience so he could tell my little group what he thinks of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Wirin : Well, I am glad to be here. You introduced me as Counsel of the ACLU and that is true; it is a correct introduction. I think I should explain that the ACLU has a position on the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY and I can tell you what that position is in a moment, but I am also wearing another hat, as it were; I am here as a citizen. I have my own personal views which are not the views of the ACLU because we do not pass judgment on you or on any person's view--that was intended to be somewhat facetitious, Tom, but be that as it may, I hope I will have an opportunity before the evening is over to tell you, as a citizen and as one who has looked into the Society a little bit, my views as to what sort of an organization, if you will permit that.

D: Yes, why don't you do that right now.

W: Well, I have been debating in my mind whether the JBS is a more subversive and more dangerous group than any other group in the United States, and whether or not it is more subversive than the Communist Party. I haven't resolved that debate but in any event, I find out these things about the JBS, the spiritual and actual leader is, of course, Mr. WELCH. He is responsible for two publications; one is a black book and one is a blue book. The Black Book is titled, "THE POLITICIAN", and the Blue Book is called "The Blue Book" and it is the Bible of the JBS.

I have had a look at the Black Book and I discovered in it that Mr. Welch is of the view that when Mr. Eisenhower was president, the presidency was occupied by what Mr. Welch calls "a dedicated Communist". In other words, Mr. Welch damns, condemns former President Eisenhower as a Communist and indeed goes further and, in his mind, convicts Mr. Eisenhower of treason. Having done this, he also puts into the same class two former presidents, Mr. Truman and Mr. Roosevelt. He puts in the same class Gen. George Marshall.

Mr. Wirin:

(continuing)

It is utterly incredible that anyone above the average of seven or eight, anyone who is an adult, would say these things and say what I am about to quote from him; namely, that John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, who is head of the CIA, are Communists. Now, I think this kind of irresponsible smearing of office, high or low, does a disservice to the American people, and I don't like the use of the word "subversive" because usually when we say subversive we just mean that we disagree with the view of someone else. I think that's what McCarthy did; when he didn't like the view of someone else, he would call them Communists or certainly subversives, so I have tried, in the past, to be discreet with the use of the word subversive and not charge others in terms of that word, but it does seem to me that if there is anything subversive, these views which I have expressed, as expressed by Mr. Welch, are as subversive as I have heard. Now, Tom, do you think that Mr. Welch's judgment of the three presidents is fair?

Duggan:

I have read the Black Book and you haven't. You say you had a look at it and you had a look at it in my office; that was the first that you had seen of it. I have read the entire book and you say that he classes Roosevelt and Truman with Eisenhower, making them Communists, too. That is not so; he said that Roosevelt was duped; that he felt he could use the Communists but the Communists were using him, and Welch is not the only other who feels that Roosevelt was outwitted by the Communists. Truman he is more harsh with and he classified Truman as perhaps a knowing dupe to this, what he refers to as the "Communist bosses". Eisenhower--- Mr. Welch is a most bitter man with Eisenhower and with Marshall and with John Foster Dulles and Allen Dulles, and so his conclusions--no, I don't go along with them.

Wirin:

He does accuse all of them as being guilty of treason.

Duggan:

Well, he accuses--in so many words he accuses just one man of treason, and that is Eisenhower.

Wirin:

So he really judges Eisenhower more harshly, more ruthlessly than he does the others, because in terms of the American political scene, he supposes you and I would agree that Roosevelt is more liberal than Marshall and Truman, and that Mr. Eisenhower would be on the conservative end of the political spectrum.

Duggan:

I would say at the start of the conservative end; I wouldn't say that Eisenhower is any kind of a dedicated conservative.

Wirin:

But you wouldn't call Eisenhower a dedicated Communist, would you?

Duggan:

No, I certainly wouldn't. But in the book, Welch does compile a great many facts and he draws this conclusion from the facts, which I think is a bad conclusion, but at the same time he does present much in his book "The Politician" that is provoking. Some of the appointments that

Duggan: (continuing) Eisenhower made and he traces the loss of countries to the Communist world, the eastern influence, so there is a great deal of good in The Politician in the assemblage of these facts. Now, I would imagine that someone is going to bootleg this book for the general public eventually, don't you?

Wirin: I would think so--I would say this to you, Tom, the last time I was on one of your shows I said quite seriously that you were one of the most subversive persons that I have known. I think I should now say that I am changing my mind very rapidly---

Duggan: That alarms me--

Wirin: --that you are more temperate and more understanding and more tolerant than---

Duggan: No, I have a great respect for President Eisenhower, as a general, as a president and, of course, I resent attacks by others upon him, the Democrats in the campaign, so I see no reason why I shouldn't resent an attack by Robert Welch upon him, but the fact remains--now I asked you what you had against the John Birch Society and instead of attacking the JBS you attacked Robert Welch and the book, "The Politician", which is not the JBS.

Wirin: Very good; that is a good point. You get 100% for that point so let me move on and discuss the JBS. I find in the BLUE BOOK, and everyone admits, that is members of the JBS admit that the Blue Book is the official book, and what that book does is represent the purposes of the JBS. I find in that book which Mr. Welch prepared, that he says that democracy is merely a deceptive phrase; a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud. Now, I think it is an irresponsible thing to live in a democracy; to live in a nation that is dedicated to freedom and which is written in democracies and then to organize a society which, I think, one has the legal and constitutional right to do, a society which is based on the premise that democracy is a fraud. I think an organization which is anti-democratic is an organization to which no American should belong, and I am greatly distressed that many Americans are joining the JBS.

Duggan: But don't you think that what he means by that is that this is a republic?

Wirin: No, I don't think so. As a matter of fact, I feel more strongly---this appears on Page 159, but let me move along with my more serious charges. As a matter of fact, Tom, I think that a reasonably careful reading of this Blue Book, which is the Bible of the JBS, might very well lead one, as it has lead me, to the conclusion that the JBS is essentially Nazi orientated, and I say that for this reason. Running through the book is the phrase--this is a book written by or consisting of speeches made by Mr. Welch--running thru these speeches in this book is an insistence by Mr. Welch, avowedly and openly stated, that he wants first the personal loyalty of all the members of the JBS--personal loyalty to him.

Wirin: (continuing) This is one of the hallmarks of Hitlerism--this insistence by the top man of personal loyalty to himself. As a matter of fact, again and again throughout the book, there is the reference by Mr. Welch to leadership and to dynamic leadership and to personal leadership. All of these are the words which come from MienKampf, which come from Hitler's philosophy of personal loyalty of all of his storm troopers and all the German people to him.

As a matter of fact, he says and insists upon there being direction from the top and he is the top and he says there will be complete and authoritative control at all levels, and he is the one who exercises that authoritative control. Moreover, Tom,--and I will be through with that phase in just a moment; I am not a psychologist but I don't think one has to be a psychologist to read in this book--where Mr. Welch refers to his being a "man on a white horse"--this is the typical symbol of fascism--of a man on a horse--a white horse makes it more glamorous, I suppose. But it is a symbol of a man who wants a movement which he controls, and I think Welch sees himself as a man on a white horse. And, moreover, I am troubled by this, that at one point--maybe a Freudian slip--and I am not a psychologist--at one point Welch says he prefers Hitler to Stalin. Now, of course, I prefer neither and I do agree that Stalin ruled Russia with tyranny and terror, but after all, Stalin did not send six million Jews and incinerate them in ovens in Russia--and Hitler did.

Duggan: How do you know?

Wirin: Well, I don't think there is any claim--

Duggan: There is a claim that there is anti-Semitism--

Wirin: There is that claim and I think it has almost been conceded by Khrushchev that the Jews have been discriminated against and have been jailed, but I don't think anyone really has claimed that the Jews have been--

Duggan: Let us go then to the "Kayten" (phonetic) Forest Massacre that was perpetrated by Stalin's forces. They may not have been Jews but they were human beings.

Wirin: Well, I am thinking in terms of the ovens of.....which Hitler was responsible for.

Duggan: Is there a difference between the massacre and the Kayten Forest?

Wirin: Well, I think that Hitler's treatment of people was more severe--more ruthless, I really do.

Duggan: Don't you think that Khrushchev's nickname of "The Butcher" or the "Hangman of the Ukraine"--doesn't that signify something? --what he did to the Ukrainians?

Wirin: I agree that perhaps there isn't much profit in comparing or contrasting Khrushchev with Hitler or Stalin with Hitler, but I do think a man shows his true sentiments when he says he prefers Hitler.

Duggan: Where did he say that?

Wirin: He said that on pages 64-65, right at the bottom of P.64.

Duggan: (reading) "The most terrible result of the collapse of the rock of faith on which our morality was built, is the rise of the amoral man of which the usual Communist himself is the most illustrative example. For an amoral man like Stalin is infinitely worse from the point of view of humanitarian civilization than the immoral one like Hitler. An immoral man may lie, steal and murder with the worst of them without any seeming limit or hesitation, but it hurts his conscience. He is, at least, susceptible to humanitarian or moral consideration to some extent if they are presented cognizantly to him. There is even a possibility always that he may sometime or in some way repent and make what amends he can for his crime".

Well, I don't see how you could say that Hitler was immoral when his sins were so gigantic in scope; he would have to be classified with Stalin, but he has taken a choice...

(both speak at once)

Wirin: He says he would rather have Hitler than Stalin. Well, I suppose I ought not say I would rather have Stalin than Hitler; I would just say I would rather have neither. Now, I have said that the Society is Nazi-orientated----

Duggan: Well, you said that--I don't want you to think I have accepted it...

Wirin: No, I am just speaking for myself, myself alone. I think that the Society, Mr. Welch and the Society, altho organized to combat Communism, actually apes the Communist philosophy and also apes the Communist jargon, Communist phrases, and adopts them and also adopts Communist tactics. And I will tell you why I think so--we here refer to the Blue Book. Again and again throughout this book, and if you will excuse me for having a little secret fun at your expense, Tom, I think I have read the Blue Book a little more carefully than you have, so I have the advantage over you---

Duggan: You might have made more notes---

Wirin: I feel very guilty for having a sense of advantage over you, but I don't think it is a very strong advantage---

Duggan: Well, I will wiggle out somehow.

Wirin:

Yes, I am sure--now, then, for instance, the Communist use the phrase often that what is needed is members who are dedicated to the Communist Party and to Communism. As a matter of fact, Lenin used the phrase that a dedicated few can do so and so, and Welch used the same phrase--as a matter of fact, on page 66 he quotes from Lenin with approval; agrees with Lenin that it is necessary to have a dedicated few and then he goes on to say that what is needed is that the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY have this dedicated few. And I notice the word "monolithic". Robert Welch and the JBS want a monolithic system. Unfortunately, some years ago I was an attorney in a prosecution hearing in Los Angeles of a number of Communists who were charged with violating the federal Smith Act, and I appeared in their case because I felt that they were being prosecuted for an opinion, and that violated the Constitution. Incidentally, if Mr. Welch comes to Los Angeles and if he is prosecuted for the view which he has expressed, either in the Blue Book or the Black Book, I will be glad, and the ACLU will make it a point to make my services available to him on the same basis as my services were available in the interest of the constitution in connection with the rights of the Communists. Let me pass that.

Duggan:

I betcha he would get somebody else, though.

Wirin:

Well, that is up to him. The L.A. Times, neither fascist or Communist, welcomed my appearing as a friend of the court in the case which it had some years ago when it was charged with the crime of contempt of court. But, in any event, as far as the John Birch Society is concerned, it insists that it is monolithic society--oh, I was going to say that during this trial of the Communists, I learned some of these Communist phrases and so when I read the Blue Book, bells rang in my head because these same phrases were being repeated.

As a matter of fact, strangely and interestingly enough, I think that Mr. Welch considers his group as a group dedicated to revolution, because he said, "Our determination to overthrow an entrenched tyranny is the very stuff out of which revolutions are made". Then I notice he urges that members of the JBS form fronts, big fronts, little fronts, all kind of fronts, and you know the word "front" is a Communist word and it is a Communist tactic. It is getting persons who avow a certain position but do not disclose that that is the position of the Communist Party, and so he wants to take a page from the Communist book and he wants members of the JBS not to disclose that they are members of the JBS but to organize different groups, pretending they are something different from what they really are. And I must say that I am greatly offended by the statement in this Blue Book by Mr. Welch, that when appropriate, members of the JBS should resort to mean and dirty tactics.

Duggan:

He mentions one tactic--a series of questions--he says this might be mean and dirty. This is an infinitive statement, he doesn't tell them to be mean and dirty--he just says this type of attack would be mean and dirty...(both speak at once)

- Wirin: He encourages and advises the use of tactics which he admits are mean and dirty and he defends it on the ground that the Communist are meaner and dirtier and therefore it is all right for him and members of his group to use such tactics. I think that meanness and dirtiness belong in no American organization and, therefore, I think the JBS, because of its tactics, because of the methods which it undertakes to use, condemns itself as a group not worthy of the support of Americans. And, moreover, he says he is a fanatic on page 170, and I think he is. Now, I don't count that as too severe an indictment because I think we need fanatics in the sense that we need persons who are devoted and dedicated and extremists.
- Duggan: You used a Communist word there.. "dedicated"
(both speak at once.)
- Wirin: I am using it in an American sense.
- Duggan: And he was using it as what--a Yugoslavian sense, or something:
- Wirin: He was quoting Lenin.
- Duggan: All right, you were essentially quoting Lenin without using Lenin's name. You hold Robert Welch suspect because he uses some Communist methods?
- Wirin: Yes.
- Duggan: Well, what's the matter with adopting--you can't beat success --and the Communists have been very successful with various things--you can't blind yourself to them and the fact that the various methods that they use have been successful. What is wrong with an anti-Communist adopting some of these methods.
- Wirin: There are two answers. In the first place I really, up to the present time, have been making the point that the JBS is apeing the tactics of the organization which it presumably opposes. I would agree that ordinarily there is nothing wrong with using tactics of adversaries who are successful. On the other hand, at times it becomes very important as to the kind of tactics one uses. For instance, if you are a person dedicated to democracy, then you would not form an organization which is opposed to democracy. This is what the JBS has done.
- Duggan: But you said at the beginning that you are not sure that the JBS is opposed to democracy or opposed to our form of government. You are mad at him for not liking the word "democracy"

Wirin: No, I think the JBS goes beyond that and says that we will not have parliamentary methods; we will not have debate, we will resort to short cuts.

Duggan: Why does he say that?

Wirin: Because he thinks this is a more efficient way of doing things.

Duggan: He also says--he takes in your arguments while he is stating this by mentioning the fact that it is a voluntary association.

Wirin: Oh, it is a voluntary association....

Duggan: There is no force used to keep people in this organization--they are there on a voluntary basis and if they do not like the way he runs this organization they are free to leave it.

Wirin: He also makes it clear in the Blue Book that if there is anyone in the organization whose views or policies or activities he disapproves of, he has the authority to remove that person from the organization.

Duggan: Well, what is wrong with that?

Wirin: Well, I think this is dictatorship; autocracy.

Duggan: But here is a voluntary organization headed by a man who realizes that opposition to Communism must be forceful and dynamic and needs dynamic leadership and, as he points out, a bunch of debating societies, quarreling among themselves, are not going to defeat Communism, and that has been proven by the rise of Communism in the world. What they need is a militant force and that can only be done by restrictions on the activities of the members of this voluntary group.

Wirin: Very well stated, Tom, but I disagree with you for this reason. If one believes that democracy is superior to and more desirable than to totalitarianism or autocracy, then one must practice what he preaches and must have democracy in all organizations, and further, an organization which is totalitarian, which is based on discipline, which is based on leadership, which has all the hallmarks of a Nazi organization, has no place in a democratic free society.

Duggan: It doesn't have the hallmarks because it is voluntary. There is no threat of force or violence. This is something that people go themselves to freely or they can take themselves away from freely. And just as he says--you talked about a monolithic group that it is and this business of being monolithic, and he points out that and he states these things--I believe it is right here: "So let's look at the job itself. If I were the man on the White Horse on our side in this war"--and he calls it a war--"which is still political and educational rather than military; if I had sufficient resources available and sufficient accepted authority over one million dedicated supporters out of at least five times that number of militant anti-Communists who are already enrolled in or contributing to hundreds of ineffectual freedom groups, so that I could coordinate the activities of that one million men and women with some degree of positiveness efficient

Duggan: (continuing) approaching the coordination by the Communists of their members and fellow travelers; if I were recognized as the leader for the sake of positiveness and direction"...that's the only reason he is the leader..."and coordination of effort and resources and still have the dedicated advice, counsel, help and organizing ability and executive know-how offered by the (unintell) men in America against the staunch anti-Communists whom I could gather around me--if I had this kind of realistic force with which to fight the Communists, here are some of the things I would do"

So, here he again says he wants to be the head of the organization but he immediately itemizes what he wants around him and he tells why this is.

Wirin: Let me ask you this question; suppose Mr. Welch were successful in this objective and he had, first the million followers, and he had the white horse, which is just a symbol of power and authority, and this organization were completely under his control, and it is an organization which apparently does not believe in the democratic method, don't you think it would be a real danger to American democracy to leave that much power with one man?

Duggan: Why do you say it does not believe in the democratic method; it believes in the methods of a free country, it believes in the Republic--the reason he talks about democracy is because he wants less government and more responsibility for citizens.

Wirin: On page 61 he says, "But whenever differences of opinion become translated into a lack of loyal support, we shall have shortcuts for eliminating both without going through any Congress of so-called democratic processes".

Now, of course, this is just one sentence in a book of 200 pages and you could say it was torn from context, but when you take this phrase, along with other phrases, you come--I come to the conclusion that he has a complete contempt for democratic processes.

Duggan: Your conclusions, I would say, are just about as wild as Welch's are in The Politician. You take a fact here and a fact there and suddenly Welch is a fascist, and he takes a fact here and a fact there and makes Eisenhower a Communist. You are just as bad in your reasoning as Welch was in the Politician, because you were taking a couple of things and because of a suspicion, because he used a word such as "dedicated", because he advocates organizing organizations of special pleader (ph) groups, then immediately he is adopting Communist methods and he is a fascist.

Wirin: I don't feel too bad about your saying that because I think you kinda admire Mr. Welch, and if you associate me with Mr. Welch, then you admire me, and this is all right with me.

Duggan: I didn't say you were walking hand in hand down the garden path or anything like that..

Wirin: You do sorta have an admiration for this man...

Duggan: Oh, yes--not the man on the white horse, but Robert Welch, the ~~early~~ manufacturer.

Wirin: Well, I like his candy, too, but I don't like his horse

Duggan: (after a commercial) This is Mr. A.L. Wirin, Exec. Secy of the American Civil Liberties Union. However, his opinion on the John Birch Society is his own as a private citizen and do not represent the ACLU--they take no position as I understand it..

Wirin: Let me explain that, Tom. You know that politically I call myself a liberal democrat. In any event, I am a follower of John F. Kennedy and I try to follow one of his practices and that is of not wearing a hat. But tonight I am wearing two hats; one of appearing here as a citizen criticizing the JBS and the other had as counsel of the ACLU. Now, I think you have gotten the impression already, have you not, that I don't agree 100% with the JBS. In fact, I am a little critical of this group.

Duggan: By the way, Have you ever taken a public stand against any Communist organizations for their anti-Americanism?

Wirin: Well--ah--all right, I will answer your question. The ACLU has a rule that no member of any Nazi or Communist Party may hold office in the ACLU or have any position of control or responsibility, so the ACLU has taken an anti-Communist position on the basis that Communists do not believe in free speech for everyone and we do.

Duggan: I mean you, personally; have you ever come out flat-footed against the Communist movement or any society that was declared subversive by the Atty. General's office, say the Progressive Party?

Wirin: Now just a minute--in the first place I, personally, and the ACLU, we both of us are very much opposed to any authority in the Atty. General or any other government agency designating any organization as Communist, subversive or otherwise, because we think this is a form of government censorship and government control over opinion. Remember when we debated some time ago I said I thought no government agency should have the authority to condemn your views, altho I personally condemned them, and I think Americans have the right to condemn each others views.

Duggan: Didn't I see somewhere in the paper where you were all for an investigation of the JBS?

Wirin: No, on the contrary--the position of the ACLU is that we oppose an investigation by governmental agencies of the JBS on the same basis that we oppose an investigation by any governmental agency of any society, because this is a form of governmental intervention or intrusion into private organization and private association and private opinion.

Duggan: You don't feel that the government has a right to investigate organizations whose activities might be detrimental to the best interest of the United States?

Wirin: You state my position so accurately---

Duggan: You don't believe they should investigate?

Wirin: I think that so long as an organization commits no violence and there is no claim that the JBS has; so long as an organization doesn't incite to violence, and there is no claim that the JBS has; so long as it just has stupid and dangerous views, of which the JBS has plenty...

Duggan: You haven't enumerated any..

Wirin: No, this is my view though, that up to that point there should be no interference by governmental authority, because once a government agency undertakes to pass upon the merits of the views of an organization, then it discourages individuals from arriving at their views unimpeded and uncoerced by governments.

Duggan: Yes, but the Nation has the right to enact security laws, hasn't it?

Wirin: Of course.

Duggan: Then the investigatory power of the Congress is necessary in order that they can enact laws which will protect the country.

Wirin: Well, Congress may investigate situations where there is incitement to violence; where there is incitement to disorder, or where there is violation of law. Short of that, we feel that Congress should not have the authority by coercive processes to compel a person to disclose his views.

Duggan: Well, they don't. A person has a perfect right to take the 5th amendment.

Wirin: Well, here is our position on the JBS...

Duggan: You say "our" position...

Wirin: The ACLU --while many of us in the ACLU, or most of us, personally frown upon and look with distaste upon the views of the JBS, as we understand them, we try to take seriously Voltaire's admonition that one must, even if one hates another's views, one must fight with his life to protect the right to express them, and so we say the JBS has the same right to express its views as does the L.A. Times, as does Tom Duggan, as does the Communist Party. That is quite a group, isn't it?

Duggan: You have me sandwiched in between a good pair, haven't you?

Wirin: Well, you are in bad company that that is not the first time.

Duggan: Well, that is possible. Now, you are a lawyer and a very able lawyer and you prepare your cases well, but here you have said that you have not investigated the JBS thoroughly. You haven't read "The Politician", you say he has written two books; well actually he has written more books.

Wirin: My dear friend, you began this program by saying that the Black Book, the Politician, is not part of the lexicon or the Bible of the JBS...(both speak)

Duggan: I am surprised that you haven't investigated this society more thoroughly before you publicly criticize it.

Wirin: I am a little surprised at you because I thought that you, by this time, would have been convinced that I have made a fairly careful study and now if I haven't, let me go on and try to demonstrate it.

Duggan: You have read the book, that is all. By the way, just one thing, you know that Senator Joe McCarthy was a friend of mine and you mentioned...

Wirin: You can't help that, of course.

Duggan: No, I am very proud of it.

Wirin: Well, I am not.

Duggan: Senator Joe was a magnificent man; a dedicated American...

Wirin: Yes, dedicated to his ideas of Americanism.

Duggan: But, anyway, the thing is that you mention in there was that McCarthy, if someone disagreed with him he would call that person a Communist. Give me an example.

Wirin: Well-a-a-ah, well, did I say it as loosely as that?

Duggan: Yes, as loosely as that. That is why I was trying to tighten it up a bit.

Wirin: Well, if I did then I admit I would like to have the record changed--I would like to express my present view. I think my disagreement with McCarthy was that he was too quick in making charges of subversion and treason without care and without investigation, too recklessly. For instance, he attacked the Truman administration as anti-democratic administration, as an administration based on treason.

Duggan: Are you referring to that "20 years of treason"?

Wirin: Yes.

Duggan: Can you quote me that whole speech that he made?

Wirin: Oh, no, and besides I haven't---

Duggan: Because people have taken that "20 Years of Treason"--didn't he mean by the Alger Hiss', the Harry Dexter Whites, and such people?

Wirin: He meant by that that the democratic party, throughout his administration, had been guilty of treason.

Duggan: "20 Years of Treason" by certain people...

Wirin: Yes (both speak at once)

Duggan: Don't you think that the Alger Hiss activities were treason?

Wirin: Well, I can't be sure--there seems to be much doubt in many quarters as to whether his conviction was proper, and I can't be sure

Duggan: Have you read all the records on Hiss?

Wirin: No, I havent - have you?

Duggan: Oh, my gosh, yes.

Wirin: Then I would yield to you as an authority on the subject.

Duggan: We had 20 years of treason, or doggone close to it. So McCarthy was right..

Wirin: I don't know.

Duggan: And Annie Lee Moss; you remember her..

Wirin: What about her?

Duggan: Well, it was such a case where Senator Stu Symington, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and everybody, lit on McCarthy's back for asking her if she were a Communist--she was a Negro government worker in Washington, and it has been proven in the trial about two years ago, when the FBI files were demanded and produced in court, that she had been a card-carrying, dues-paying Communist and Symington and the rest got mad at McCarthy for asking her if she were a Communist, and, by gosh if she wasn't!!!

Wirin: Well, for the one time McCarthy was right...

Duggan: Well, I showed you a time when he was right; show me a time when he was wrong.

Wirin: I gave you the example of his accusing the Democratic Administration...

Duggan: And I gave you the example that Alger Hiss and Harry Dexter White were pirates..

Wirin: Does that make the entire administration treason because two persons were...

Duggan: Not two; there were many more.

Wirin: Well, not many more.

Duggan: Even a fellow by the name of Duggan, a Stephen Duggan--didn't he jump out a window?

Wirin: Tom Duggan?

Duggan: No, Stephen. My grandfather's name was Stephen but he was dead many years before that.

Wirin: In any event, Tom, McCarthy is dead and that is that, and I am not questioning his personal life, but I do think there is a good deal of McCarthyism in this Blue Book of the JBS which I oppose. Let me give you some examples.

Duggan: We will have some exemplars of McCarthyism, which sounds very interesting and very healthy to me, but first
(commercial)

Wirin: I was going to say this; we are talking about Senator McCarthy. Sen. McCarthy is dead but McCarthyism lives on and the JBS expresses the tradition and the spirit and the tactics of Sen. McCarthy and McCarthyism.

Duggan: Which I consider to be Americanism.

Wirin: Well, let's see now. The JBS, in its Blue Book, says that there is treason in the Pentagon. As a matter of fact, this is more serious; this is a charge that even Sen. McCarthy wouldn't make. He said there was treason because there were Communists in the State Department, but Mr. Welch puts treason right in the Pentagon where the whole defense of our nation is channelled.

Duggan: Don't you think it possible that there could be Communists in uniform?

Wirin: It think it is utterly unlikely and there has been no claim by any reasonable person or any other person...

Duggan: Didn't McCarthy start to investigate the military?

Wirin: Well, no, certainly not in the Pentagon.

Duggan: The Pentagon is merely a nerve center of the military force and if you were investigating part of the military, it would naturally affect the Pentagon, but don't you think it is quite possible that there are a certain number of Communists or people dedicated to the overthrow of our country in uniform?

Wirin: Oh, there may be some persons in uniform; that is to say privates in the U.S. Army, but...

Duggan: How about Major Puress (ph)

Wirin: The Major is not of the Army; hasn't been in the Army---

Duggan: But he was; he was a Major, he was not a private.

Wirin: He wasn't at the Pentagon; he wasn't at the nerve center.

Duggan: But he was appointed--all advancements in rank would have to be cleared thru the nerve center.

Wirin: In any event--Oh, I see; so you agree that there is treason in the Pentagon.

Duggan: I would say there certainly is a possibility. Didn't you say that Gen. Stillwell was partial to the Communists. Didn't you say that Col. Carlson, of Carlson's Raiders, was ultra liberal in his views. They were military men.

Wirin: All right, Tom, if you take this view then you share--- In the first place, the JBS doesn't say it is possible, it says, "there it is" and this is a serious charge, it is a responsible charge and I think a false charge. The JBS isn't satisfied to put treason in the Pentagon, it said there was treason in the Atomic Energy Commission under Admiral Strauss..

Duggan: Wasn't Oppenheimer under Strauss?

Wirin: Oppenheimer was....

(both speak at once)

Duggan: Strauss was the one who forced him out.
Well, wasn't his brother, Frank--wasn't Oppenheimer's wife
at one time a Communist; wasn't Frank a Communist. Didn't
Oppenheimer admit that he lied to the officers?

Wirin: Does that make treason at the Atomic Energy Commission because
one man was accused...

Duggan: Well, one of the top men in our Atomic Energy project was
Oppenheimer.

Wirin: Well, I say that you are sympathetic with this position...

Duggan: Well, I am certainly not going to write it off that as
eminent, a man in scientific circles as Oppenheimer...

Wirin: Now, the JBS says in this book that there are treasonous
activities throughout the whole operation of the Atomic Energy
Commission. Don't you think that is an over-statement based
on any standard of any kind?

Duggan: Have you ever read the investigation of the Commission of
Oppenheimer?

Wirin: Oppenheimer is one man against thousands...

Duggan: Wait a minute, now. It wasn't Oppenheimer, it was his brother,
Frank--it was people he protected in the Atomic Energy project.

Wirin: Tom, do you agree that there are treasonous activities through-
out the whole Atomic Energy Commission?

Duggan: I do agree that there has been---

Wirin: Throughout the whole Commission?

Duggan: Well, certainly we lost--didn't Russia get our atomic secrets;
didn't they get our heavy water (pn)--wasn't that testified to
by Major Jordan?

Wirin: That didn't come from the Atomic Energy Commission.

Duggan: Well, it had to come out from under it...

Wirin: All right; I didn't convince you..

Duggan: And I didn't convince you. I gave you a few more facts, though.

Wirin: By the way, Tom, you are making some very effective retorts to
some of my points. I do think that the views which you express
qualify you tremendously for the JBS. You ought to think about
that.

Duggan: I belong to the Marine Post of the American Legion in Chicago;
it's the only organization I belong to. The only one that I have
ever belonged to in my life; I was an Altar Boy and I haven't
belonged to that for about 35 years.

Wirin: Your voice is in good shape now, Tom, with its good resonant low pitch
(both speak at once)

Duggan: Now, I don't want you to think there was anything wrong with the Altar Boys because they had high pitched voices...

Wirin: I never suggested such a thing, of course. I think that subconsciously I just regret that I wasn't an Altar Boy. Now, let's see how much more of the cardinal faith of the JBS you agree with. I disagree with the JBS because they, like Sen. McCarthy, saw Communists in many places where they were not; saw treason in many places where there certainly was none, and made reckless and irresponsible charges about the prevalence of Communism

Now the JBS is worried about Communism in the churches and it says that some of the churches actually use their pulpits to preach out-right Communism. Now, I think this is an exaggeration and more correctly, a false one. Do you know of any Protestant or Catholic Church where Communism is outrightly and openly preached from the pulpit?

Duggan: That depends on what you mean by Communism. Now you remember the celebrated manual which warned the enlisted men against indoctrination from the churches. It was withdrawn but, at the same time, the Chairman of the HCUA said that the Manual was perfectly correct. But if this was so, and here is the man who was in charge of the houses' investigatory committee on Communism....

Wirin: That is one of the reasons I am opposed to the HCUA

Duggan: And of course we have this protestant Bishop in San Francisco who...

Wirin: You mean Bishop Pike--why, he is a very great man.

Duggan: Very liberal..

Wirin: Of course, he is liberal-- (both speak at once)

Duggan: I don't see how anyone could parallel the Communist line and be a Christian

Wirin: You say he is a liberal; you don't say he is Communist.

Duggan: I am saying that some of his advocated policies are dangerous.

Wirin: I think we are coming close to the difference of opinion that I have with the JBS on one hand and with you on the other, and that is the carelessness of the JBS, and you, too--I say this in a very friendly way--are not distinguishing between liberalism and Communism.

Duggan: It is hard to distinguish...

- Wirin: But the point is, it is very easy to distinguish if one undertakes to be careful and precise, and just because a person has a liberal view is no indication that he is a Communist.
- Duggan: If he is moving toward the same goal as the Communist and advocates the same policies--in other words, if he acts like a tiger, looks like a tiger, he is a tiger...
- Wirin: I am quite put out with the JBS because of their position in the Blue Book that the civil rights projects in the South, the opposition to segregation comes entirely from Communists. This is--- the trouble in our Southern States has not been fomented almost entirely by the Communists.
- Duggan: You can almost--you know to a degree that it has been and that the Communists have benefited by our unusual social structure in the South.
- Wirin: I know that the Communists had virtually nothing to do with the opposition to segregation and discrimination in the South. I know that is a Christian movement of which Martin Luther King, who believes in non-violence, not in violence, a follower of Mahatma Gandhi, has been largely responsible for.
- Duggan: Martin has travelled with some colorful people...
- Wirin: Are you being facetitious?--of course the man is colored.
- Duggan: I don't mean that; I mean colorful in a pinkish tinge--pink is the color I am worried about-- not black.
- Wirin: Tom, we have talked about the JBS being dedicated to fight Communism. I think it is not fighting Communism effectually because it is fighting Communism dishonorably. I do have a suggestion as to how to fight Communism; a suggestion that I borrowed from J. Edgar Hoover. He was asked how one could fight Communism and he said, among other things.. "What You Can do to Fight Communism.. (1) Fight bigotry and prejudice wherever they appear. Justice for all is the bulwark for democracy (2) respect human dignity."
- I think that is the way to fight Communism and that is the American way. Tom, I am going to leave you. I had a very pleasant evening.
- Duggan: Thank you, very much. Did I deport myself?--how did I---
- Wirin: Exemplary.
- Duggan: Fine. Mr. Wirin's friends think I am sort of crude at times and he mentioned that to me and I said I would conduct myself like a gentleman. While I don't agree with Mr. Wirin and I don't care for the ACLU, I have a great respect for Mr. Wirin. I think he is a most able attorney and he has the great courage of his convictions and in many cases the convictions must be personally troublesome to him in the community if he can arouse the antipathy of the community at times, but he carries through on them.

Birch Society 'Ridiculous'- Bob Kennedy

- *Senators' views conflict, P. 4.*
- *Cardinal backs Birch, P. 10.*

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy said Thursday the conservative John Birch Society impeded the nation's fight against communism.

But he told his first news conference there was no evidence that the group was controlled by any outside influence or advocated violent overthrow of the Government. He called the society "ridiculous" and "humorous."

The society says its main purpose is to combat communism.

In his first public statement on the organization, the Attorney General said the Justice Dept. had found no evidence that the group had violated any Federal law.

Pressed on how it arrived at this conclusion, Kennedy said the department was not investigating the society "at the present time." He said it had received some complaints.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-7-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Warden Woolard

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/AM

100-59001-2411

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <u>Mo</u>	FILED <u>Mo</u>
APR 7 1961	
FBI — LOS ANGELES	

Om

b6

b7C

Robert Kennedy Calls Birch Society Ridiculous

Organization Hindering Fight Against
Communism, Attorney General Believes

Times Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Atty. Gen. Kennedy characterized the John Birch Society Thursday as ridiculous, humorous and a hindrance in the fight against communism.

"I think they are ridiculous," the attorney general told his press conference when asked for his views on

It was Kennedy's first public statement on the Birch Society and he said he didn't know any society members personally. But from what he has read in the newspapers, the attorney general said he feels the organization is "in the area of being humorous."

Under the Constitution, Kennedy said, "people can say pretty much what they want."

Other reports concerning Birch Society, Page 10, Part 1.

the controversial anti-Communist organization.

"I don't think anyone should pay any attention to them," he added. "I don't think they make any contribution to the fight against communism in the United States and if anything they are a hindrance."

Kennedy, who was quoted by the Justice Department last week as being concerned about the society, was asked if he planned an investigation of the ultra-conservative group.

No investigation is taking place "at the present time," Kennedy said. He added that the department has no evidence that the society or its members have violated any federal laws, that it is controlled by any outside country or that it has advocated overthrow of the government.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-7-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Nick B. Williams

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

100-59001-242
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED MD FILED MD
APR 7 1961

b6

b7C

Birchers Advised to Quit Society

That's Best Way to
Show Good Sense,
Says Sen. Humphrey

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Assistant Senate Democratic leader Hubert H. Humphrey (Minn.) said Thursday that members of the John Birch Society could demonstrate good sense by resigning from the organization.

Replying to Arizona Republican Sen. Goldwater's statement that respected citizens, including members of Congress, belong to the anti-Communist organization, Humphrey said:

"Some of the 'best people' praised Hitler and Mussolini, too."

Hart's View

Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.), discussing demands by some for an investigation of the society, told a news conference that Congress had a right to conduct such an inquiry. But he said congressional investigations posed the danger that "someone may fear to express a view that is unpopular."

Asked whether he considered members of the society to be subversives, Hart said: "Insofar as they are nuts who ought to be watched, yes. Insofar as they pose a serious threat to our survival, no."

"The glare of publicity will show what the society is," he said. "In its present composition, it is not a threat."

Women Laud Stand Against Birch Group

ENID, Okla. (AP)—Methodist women of Oklahoma Thursday commended news publications which have spoken out against the controversial John Birch Society.

A resolution unanimously adopted by the Women's Society of Christian Service of the Oklahoma Conference of the Methodist Church here also said "it gives us assurance to know that the Department of Justice is concerned with this organization."

"We also affirm our faith in the patriotism of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower and former President Harry Truman and members of the Supreme Court," the resolution added.

Four State Church Group Assails Society

HOUSTON (AP)—The four-state Texas Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church Thursday charged the John Birch Society with helping to destroy democracy.

A resolution adopted at the final session of the synod's three-day meeting said the right-wing society sows seeds of mutual distrust and fear through false witness.

Techniques used by the society, the resolution said, are false to Christian ideals.

Church members were advised to use extreme caution when invited to participate in groups "purporting to be patriotic but whose operations in the name of saving democracy are aiding in its destruction."

The Texas Synod includes Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana and Mississippi.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-7-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Nick B. Williams

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-86 BY SP4BJA/m

b6

b7C

100-59001-243

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 7 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

These Days

John Birch Society

By George E. Sokolsky

I think that I wrote the first article (Jan. 14) calling attention to the John Birch Society. Since then there has been a plethora of discussion, some competent, some absurd. Let us analyze the position with some objectivity:



Sokolsky

Any American citizen is free to organize an association or express his ideas and to advocate his purposes. This is guaranteed in the Constitution.

Mafia

However, no organization may be established to commit crime like the Mafia, or to sell narcotics or overthrow the government of the United States by force and violence.

No accusations have been made against the John Birch Society which brings it within these categories.

The worst crime this society is accused of having committed is that it is to the right of Louis XIV.

But is it a crime to ask whether these days bring more contentment than those?

I disagree with the John Birch Society's campaign to impeach the chief justice, Earl Warren.

I wrote that it is both strategically and tactically unsound and received a whale of a mail, couched in identical language, pitying me for being so wrong.

If an organization wishes to have its members write letters to public men, who can say them any?

The public men do not have to read the letters; they may weigh them on scales to see how many pounds of mail came from this one group.

There is no law which forbids citizens to organize to have an official impeached by due process of the law.

Possibility

It is possible to believe that those citizens are incorrect in their views and to say so.

But neither side to the controversy commits a crime by being controversial.

As a matter of fact, this country would be improved if more of us were controversial.

We are not suffering from objecting too much; we are suffering from too much conformity.

Robert Welch, jr., who is the founder of the John Birch Society, is opposed to Communism and believes that it is sound to fight fire with fire.

Most fire departments prefer to fight fire with water or with chemicals.

Welch organized as he thinks the Communists organize, namely by arranging for small cells, often unknown to each other.

Communists do not organize that way at all. It is the Soviet espionage organizations that are organized that way.

No one can question Welch's sincerity or his desire to serve his country.

How deeply he has studied Hegel, Darwin, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Bukharin, Bernstein, and the history of the 19th century, I do not know.

He jumps at conclusions

often based on misapplication of terms.

Not Criminal

But none of this is as criminal as the treason of the Communists and many of their fellow-travelers.

Bob Welch may not understand all of the deviations and revisions of the Social Democratic movement or the synthesis that Marx produced of Darwin, Huxley, Hegel, Feuerbach and Bakunin.

It is not sound to believe that everyone who disagrees, in 1961, after two world wars and a universal depression, with the economics of Mark Hanna is a Communist.

As a matter of fact, conservatives who are firm believers, for instance, in the free market, cannot find one upon the face of the earth.

Nevertheless, a man has the right, in this country, to organize an association which recognizes the status quo ante bellum as preferable, just as an architect may organize a society to prefer Michelangelo to Lloyd Wright or as a musician might organize a society to advocate Stravinsky in preference to Wagner.

Public Hearing

Robert Welch jr. has requested a public hearing from a congressional committee.

The risk is that his associates may sound like crackpots; the benefit is that they will be able to state their case.

Such a committee would ask Robert Welch if he really believes that ex-President Eisenhower is a Communist.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BSM/KM

LOS ANGELES EVENING

HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 4-7-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR HERBERT H. KRAUCH

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

b6

b7C

100-59601-844

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 7 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Obviously, the former President is not a Communist; he is a golfer.

Nor can anyone say that Jack Kennedy is a Communist; he is a Roman Catholic and a member of the Communist Party must be an atheist, a believer in dialectical materialism.

It is so easy to straighten out many of these things by a definition of terms.

A Communist is a person who accepts a clearly stated dogmatic set of sociological postulates.

Whoever does not accept these postulates cannot be a Communist, no matter how hard he tries or how violently he is accused.

Neither ex-President Eisenhower nor Chief Justice Earl Warren fits the specifications.

Copyright, 1961, King Features Synd., Inc.

Better Answers to Communism

An Editorial From the Christian Science Monitor

It is understandable that many individuals desire a more active, personal part in combating world communism. But current demands for congressional investigation of an organization whose leader has charged three American Presidents with being Red tools underscore again the pitfalls which beset the anti-Communist path.

J. Edgar Hoover, who probably knows as much as any American about fighting communism, recently stated that the "job of curtailing and containing communism is one for legally constituted authorities with the steadfast cooperation of every loyal citizen." The FBI chief does not deny the individual a role but he warns against "reckless charges" and "vigilante action."

The FBI has made good use of citizens who as undercover agents under its specific directions infiltrated and exposed Communist groups. But Mr. Hoover knows how the work of professionals can be hampered by reckless charges. False tips can divert the trackers, and continued mistaken "wolf, wolf" alarms create apathy.

Alertness is urgently required. Too few Americans

are awake to the real nature of this evil. But excessive fear breeds a rejection of democratic processes. It leads decent, honorable citizens to use dishonorable and authoritarian means to combat the evils they fear.

It too often fosters a totalitarian attitude which attacks everyone who will not fight communism in one prescribed way. It induces a self-defeating, self-righteous distrust and tearing down of men who lead freedom's cause in key sectors.

★

Indeed it would be easy to conclude that such damage to a healthy America was planned in Moscow. And some thoughtful moderates will contend that this "radicalism of the right" splits, discredits and weakens the very forces in America which should be most effective in combating the opposite extreme — that which in the name of "liberalism" often appears to be "greasing the Communist skids" by moving toward submergence of individual and local interests in a paternalistic superstate.

The core of totalitarianism is disregard for the in-

dividual. The core of free societies is concern for the individual. This has its roots in religious teachings that man is the son of God. Persons who keep this distinction clear in their thought and action can indeed have an active and wisely effective part in combating communism.

Positive trust in divine guidance and protection should displace a conspiratorial distrust. Positive rededication to a religious sense of brotherhood should lessen concern with divisive organizational "fronts." More positive reliance on the spiritual force of truth, justice and freedom (when exemplified) should ease obsessive fears of subversion.

Study of and appreciation for precious civil liberties and individual rights should be a more positive answer than either the maligning or misinterpretation of them. Active efforts to set up noble goals and to provide the equality of opportunity which will permit every individual to achieve his full potential is a more positive answer than any anti-communism which adopts totalitarian methods to fight totalitarianism.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-7-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Nick B. Williams

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-B59/bs

b6

b7C

100-59001-245

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 7 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

JST

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-59001)

DATE: 4/7/61

FROM : SA

b6

b7C

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

The April 6, 1961 issue of the "Lake Elsinore Valley Sun", carries a full page article on captioned group. The article is noted to be an advertisement and is captioned "JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY AIMS AND PRINCIPLES" and is signed or authored by ERIC L. PRIDONOFF, San Marino, California.

Due to its size, the article is being retained in the 1A section of this file rather than mounted as a serial.

See 1a5

HLP/hlp

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY BSA/jm

100-59001-246

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 8 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

95

Welch Reveals Names of Birch Council Members

BELMONT, Mass. (AP) — Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, Friday gave a reporter a quantity of literature issued by the organization, including a pamphlet listing the society council members.

The council is described in the booklet as the "top governing body under the founder." The date of the pamphlet is given as Jan. 31, 1961.

Functions of the council are described as threefold:

To show the stature of the society leadership, to advise and guide the founder, and "to select, with absolute and final authority, a successor to myself as head of the John Birch Society, if and when an accident, 'suicide,' or anything sufficiently fatal is arranged for me by the Communists—or I simply die in bed of old age and a cantankerous disposition."

Members Listed

Listed as council members are:

Dr. N. E. Adamson Jr., of Boston, assistant medical director of the New England Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Thomas J. Anderson, editor and publisher of Farm and Ranch, a farm publication.

T. Coleman Andrews of Richmond, Va., former U.S. commissioner of internal revenue. Spruille Braden of New York City, former assistant secretary of state and former ambassador to several countries.

Retired Army Col. Laurence E. Bunker of Wellesley, Mass., former personal aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Industrialists Named

F. Gano Chance, president of A. B. Chance Co., Centralia, Mo.

S. J. Conner, president of Conroth Co., Chicago, Ill.

Ralph E. Davis, president of General Plant Protection Corp., Los Angeles.

Dr. S. M. Draskovich, editor in chief of the Serbian Struggle, weekly newspaper published in Chicago.

The Rev. Richard Ginder, editor of the Priest, and associate editor of Our Sunday Visitor, Roman Catholic weekly newspaper.

William J. Grede, president of Grede Foundries, Inc., Milwaukee, a former president of National Association of Manufacturers.

A. G. Heinsohn Jr., president of Cherokee Mills, Sevierville, Tenn.

Dr. Granville F. Knight, Santa Barbara, physician.

Fred C. Koch, president of Rick Island Oil & Refining Co., Wichita, Kan.

Manion a Member

Alfred Kohlberg (deceased), a charter member of the council.

Clarence Manion, former dean of Notre Dame University law school, and founder of the Manion Forum, a radio discussion program.

Frank E. Masland Jr., president of C. H. Masland & Sons, carpet manufacturers, Carlisle, Pa.

N. Floyd McGowin, president of W. T. Smith Lumber Co., Chapman, Ala.

W. B. McMillan, president of Hussmann Refrigerator Co., St. Louis, Mo. (identified as first member of society, "next to your founder").

Reville P. Oliver, University of Illinois professor.

Cola G. Parker, former president of Kimberly-Clark Co., and a former president of National Association of Manufacturers.

M. T. Phelps, former chief justice of Arizona Supreme Court.

Louis Ruthenburg, former

board chairman of Serval, Inc., Evansville, Ind.

Others on Council

J. Nelson Shepherd, president of Midwest-Beach Co., Sioux Falls, S.D.

James Simpson Jr. (deceased), charter member of council.

Robert W. Stoddard, president of Wyman-Gordon Co., Worcester, Mass.

Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone, III, lifetime honorary chairman of 14th Air Force Assn.

Paul H. Talbert, president of Paul H. Talbert Co., Beverly Hills.

Index

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

PART 1 PAGE 4

COL 3-5

100-59001-247

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

ST

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/M

Says 'None of Us Will Plead 5th'

Welch Asks Senate Probe Birch Group

(From Wires of UPI, AP)

BELMON, Mass., April 1—Robert Welch, founder of the controversial John Birch Society, disclosed today he has asked the Senate internal sub-committee to investigate the organization.

Welch's secretary made public a night letter which was wired last night to Sen. James O. Eastland, D-Miss., subcommittee chairman.

In it Welch promised "none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment" and asserted the society's "only 'crime' is fighting communism."

The denial came as criticism of the rightist society mounted following disclosure Welch had written Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

CHARGES FALSEHOODS

Welch charged last night his organization was the victim of an "incredible fog of falsehood..."

"We ask at least the responsible part of the American press to have more regard for the truth about us. Our only 'crime' is fighting Communism, and that we intend to continue until our side wins."

The 61-year-old retired businessman, whose anti-Communist society has stirred some protests across the nation, denied he had ever called former President Eisenhower a "card-carrying Communist."

"Anybody who says I have is either knowingly dealing in falsehoods or is badly misinformed," Welch said.

"Even in my private confidential letter, written years ago, which it has been completely unethical for anybody to quote anywhere, and in which I stated in the blunt language of a personal letter some harsh personal opinions of our then-President, I made it very clear at the end of the letter that I had no quarrel with anybody who wished to attribute his actions simply to political opportunism. That is how the letter came to be dubbed 'The Politician.'"

CALLED IKE RED

In the Politician, which was written before the Birch Society was founded in 1958, Welch said:

"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist Party is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION
APR 1 1961
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

car

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/TM

b6

b7C

100-59001-248

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

987

that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

In regard to this comment, Welch said last night "I never had that opinion. I never thought it then with firmness enough to publish it or to say it in public and I don't today."

Some congressmen have called for investigations of the John Birch Society by the House Committee on Un-American activities, the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and the Senate Government Operations Committee.

The chairman of all three bodies indicated, however, that they had no plans to investigate the society.

Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, Republican of California, a member of the society, called congressional attacks part of a "pro-Communist smear."

But a spokesman for the Justice Department in Washington said the society's activities have become a "matter of concern to the Justice Department."

Welch's denial that he ever called Eisenhower a "card-carrying Communist" was in answer to a reporter's question at the society's headquarters in Belmont.

The question was prompted by a statement in a book published by Welch for limited circulation.

BIRCH SOCIETY HEAD ASKS CONGRESS QUIZ

Mirror Wire Services

BOSTON — The founder of the ultra-right wing John Birch Society today asked for an official congressional investigation of his controversial group.

In a telegram to Sen. Eastland (D-Miss.), chairman of the Senate's internal security subcommittee, Robert H.

W. Welch asked for the probe to answer what he termed "sheer fabrications" about the society's activities.

Welch's request came amid growing demands by some members of Congress that the society be investigated.

AND IT CAME on the heels of:

WELCH SAID he hoped the investigation would reveal "the simple truth" about the society.

In Washington, Sen. Eastland said he would call his committee to a meeting "as quickly as I can" to consider Welch's request.

Welch said he never labeled Eisenhower a Communist.

"Anybody who says I have is either knowingly dealing in falsehoods or is badly misinformed," Welch said Friday night.

"EVEN in my private confidential letter, written years ago, which it has been completely unethical for anybody to quote anywhere, and in which I stated in the blunt language of a personal letter some harsh personal opinions of our then President, I made it very clear at the end of the letter that I had no quarrel with anybody who wished to attribute his actions simply to political opportunism. That is how the letter came to be dubbed 'The Politician.'"

In "The Politician," which was written before the Birch Society was founded in 1958, Welch said:

"BUT MY FIRM belief

1) A Justice Department statement that termed Birch Society activities a "matter of concern" to the department.

2) A statement of tacit disapproval of the society from FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, who deplored privately directed "vigilante action" against communism.

3) A denial by Welch that he ever had labeled former President Eisenhower a "card-carrying Communist." In his denial, Welch blasted the society's critics for laying down "an incredible fog of falsehood" about him.

Welch, 61, called for the investigation only a day after a press conference at which he defended himself and the society.

In his telegram to Eastland, he pledged that society members would testify openly and "unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment."

HE SAID HE wanted the investigation "because of the charges now being so widely circulated about us, some of which are extreme distortions of fact and many of which are sheer fabrications."

Welch said that "as many of our members as your committee may wish will gladly testify about the background, methods, purposes and specific activities of the society."

"The John Birch Society is a group of men and women of good character, fervent patriotism, religious ideals and excellent standing in their respective communities."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-24-96 BY 594-B59p/1

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 4/1/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

607

b6

b7C

100-59001-249

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
APR 1 1961
LOS ANGELES

957



—AP WIREPHOTO
R. H. W. WELCH JR.
Head of Birch Society.

that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist Party is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

In regard to this comment, Welch said:

"I never had that opinion.

never thought it then with Eisenhower's political firmness enough to publish it or to say it in public, and I don't today."

THE BOOK also said: "In my opinion, the chances are very strong that Milton Eisenhower is actually Dwight Eisenhower's superior boss within the Communist Party. For one thing, he is obviously a great deal smarter."

Asked about his written statements about ex-Presidents Truman and Roosevelt and ex-Secretary of State Dulles, Welch said:

"They were being used by the Communists — I never said they were Communists and I don't say it now."

WELCH DEFENDED the society's policy for keeping the names of its members secret.

"The John Birch Society is not, simply because we have sought to avoid publicity, thereby a secret organization," he said.

"Our objective has been to build strength and understanding instead of creating noise. All of our materials are wide open for anybody to purchase."

Welch said his references

to Eisenhower's political leanings came some years ago when "I wrote a private, confidential letter in which I stated in the blunt language of a personal letter some harsh personal opinions of our then-President."

He said the letter showed that "I had no quarrel with anybody who wished to attribute his (Eisenhower's) actions simply to political opportunism."

WELCH SAID his letter, which was read at first by a few of the society's members, was soon circulated widely and, as he added to it, "eventually grew to 80,000 words."

"That is why the letter came to be called a book," he said.

REP. ROUSSELOT, Arcadian Republican, said he would welcome an investigation at both the state and national level to determine whether the society is a Fascist organization.

Rousselot, who admitted he has been a member of the society since September, said, "I have never received financial support from the organization, and it has never dictated to me."

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 4/1/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR _____

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

Text of Welch Statement On Birch Society Stand

BELMONT, Mass., April 1 (AP)—Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, has issued the following statement:

"This statement is offered as an effort to pierce, by at least a tiny beam of truth, some of the incredible fog of falsehood now being so widely circulated about me. So please let me point out the following facts.

"Nowhere in my private or published writings have I ever called former President Eisenhower a 'card-carrying' Communist. Anybody who says I have is either knowingly dealing in falsehoods or is badly misinformed.

'CONFIDENTIAL'

"Even if my private confidential letter, written years ago, which it has been completely unethical for anybody to quote anywhere, and in which I stated in the blunt language of a personal letter some harsh personal opinions of our then-President, I made it very clear at the end of the letter that I had no quarrel with anybody who wished to attribute his actions simply to political opportunism. That is how

the letter came to be dubbed 'The Polician.'

"Also, please note that this long letter had been read in 1955 by most of the men who were at the founding meeting of the John Birch Society in December, 1958. Despite having read my letter, most of them had vigorously supported Eisenhower in the 1956 campaign. And at the founding of the society, the letter was discussed and specifically disavowed by the group as being no part of the material of belief of the John Birch Society in any way.

FALSE CHARGES

"Please note to that, despite falsehoods now being circulated, I have gone out of my way to make clear in my book that I did not think Roosevelt or Truman were Communists or sympathizers in any way with ultimate Communist aims. And there are many other statements being attributed to me that are equally false or distorted.

"The John Birch Society is not, simply because we have sought to avoid publicity, thereby a secret society. Our objective has been to build strength and understanding instead of creating noise. All of our materials are wide open for anybody to purchase. The John Birch Society is a group of splendid men and women of good character, fervent patriotism, religious ideals, and excellent standing in their respective communities. It has broken no law, violated no moral principles, and has as a firmly-stated foundation of its program that even good ends never justify bad means. We ask at least the responsible part of the American press to have more regard for the truth about us. Our only 'crime' is fighting Communism, and that we intend to continue until our side wins."

LOS ANGELES EVENING
HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 4/1/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

May 1

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-B5H/DM

b6

b7C

100-59001-250

SEA	SEARCHED
SER	SERIALIZED
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

951

Birch Founder Asks Senate Investigation

BELMONT, Mass. (AP)—Robert Welch, founder of the controversial John Birch Society, disclosed Saturday he has asked the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee to investigate the organization.

Welch's secretary made public a night letter wired to Sen. James O. Eastland, D-Miss., subcommittee chairman.

In it Welch promised "none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment" and asserted the society's "only 'crime' is fighting communism."

The telegram was made public some 24 hours after Welch said he never had called President Eisenhower a "card carrying Communist."

The denial came as criticism of the rightist society mounted following disclosure Welch had written Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

Welch, in a privately published book, also criticized Milton Eisenhower, brother of the former President, and etched former Presidents Truman and Franklin D. Roosevelt and the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles as "tools of communism."

In Washington Friday a spokesman for the Department of Justice said the society's activities have become "a matter of concern" to that Government agency.

Edgar Hoover, FBI director, also published a statement implying criticism of the society.

Some Congressmen have urged investigations by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, the Senate internal security subcommittee, and the Senate Government Operations Committee.

However, chairmen of these committees indicated they had no plans for such action.

And one Congressman, Rep. Edgar W. Helms (R., Calif.), a John Birch member, tagged attacks on the organization a "pro-Communist smear."

The text of Welch's telegram to Eastland:

"Because of the charges now being so widely circulated about us, some of which are extreme distortions of fact and many of which are sheer fabrications, the John Birch Society respectfully requests an official investigation by the Senate internal security subcommittee of which you are chairman.

"As many of our members as your committee may wish will gladly testify about the background, methods, purposes, and activities of the society. And we repeat our assurance made recently to the chairman of a committee in

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-2-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Warden Woodard

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

b6

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/om

100-59001-251

INDEXED	FILED
APR 2 1961	APR 2 1961
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

957

California that, unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment.

"As emphasized by us in a release to the press earlier today, before we had decided to make this request, the John Birch Society is not a secret society. All of our materials are wide open for anybody to purchase. The John Birch Society is a group of men and women of good character, fervent patriotism, religious ideals, and excellent standing in their respective communities.

"The society has broken no law, and violated no moral principles. Our only 'crime' is fighting communism and that we intend to continue until our side wins.

"We do not expect your committee to accept these statements without careful investigation, but we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to give your committee testimony fully substantiating them, and also to answer the questions your committee might wish to ask us.

"In the course of such an investigation we hope to be able to present to your committee, and through your committee to the American people, the simple truth about the John Birch Society. And to that end, if our request is granted we pledge our fullest cooperation.

"Respectfully and sincerely,
Robert Welch, founder, the
John Birch Society."

Society Defended by Mother of Capt. Birch

Georgia Woman Says She Is 'Very Happy'
Welch Named Group After Her Dead Son

FT. WORTH (AP) — The mother of the late missionary for whom the John Birch Society was named told the Star-Telegram Friday she and her husband are "heartily in accord with the purpose and the procedure of the John Birch Society."

Mrs. George S. Birch of Macon, Ga., was contacted by telephone for her comments on the congressional interest in the strongly anti-Communist society.

Her late son, Capt. John Birch, went abroad from Ft. Worth in 1940 after completing his religious education at the Fundamentalist Baptist Bible Institute. He was one of the first two graduates of the local school, established by the late J. Frank Norris, a firebrand preacher who broke with the Southern Baptist Convention, the main Baptist group in the South.

Killed in China

Birch, an Army intelligence officer, was killed by Chinese Communists 10 days after V-J Day.

Mrs. Birch said she and her husband, a retired missionary, are honorary life members of the John Birch Society.

The society was named for the young Birch, whom its leaders chose on the ground that he was the first American victim of the cold war.

Mrs. Birch said she was "very happy that Mr. Welch



Capt. John Birch

(Robert Welch, head of the society) chose our son."

She said she felt her son was chosen "for his willingness to give his life for Christ and for his country."

As for her son's own thoughts about communism:

"He had strong feelings on anything that was subversive."

Mrs. Birch said her son once said in a letter to one of his five brothers:

"Yes, brother mine, liberty is worth fighting for and dying for."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/AM

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

PART 1 Page 5

Doc 1-2

100-59001-282

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

257

Birch Society Hurts Fight on Reds, Bell Says

Organizations such as the John Birch Society increase the difficulty of advancing conservative thought and of resisting communism, Rep. Al Bell of Santa Monica declared Friday.

The Republican congressman, a former chairman of the Republican State Central Committee of California, had just arrived home for a speaking tour of the 16th District during the Easter recess of the House of Representatives.

Declines Membership

He reported that, in recent years, he has declined several invitations to join the John Birch Society.

"It is my opinion," Rep. Bell said, "that the case for conservatism should be presented on the public stage, that action taken in behalf of conservatism should not be done in secret, but should be open to inspection by any man.

"All our political affairs," he continued, "should be characterized by standards of taste, compassion, and truth that reflect credit on us and stand in sharp contrast to tactics so often employed by those whom we oppose.

Often Alarming

"Political developments in the last several decades, both at home and abroad, have been disenchanting, frustrating, and often alarming," the Santa Monica congressman concluded. "But, our anxiety about these developments must never lead us to courses of action which are, in effect, declarations of no faith in the fundamental strength of the American system."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

PART 1 PAGE 5

2001

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

100-59001-253

SEARCHED <i>mo</i>	INDEXED <i>mo</i>
SERIALIZED <i>mo</i>	FILED <i>mo</i>
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

87

Birch Society Head Speaks Here April 11

The Freedom Club of the First Congregational Church will present Robert Welch, founder and head of the John Birch Society in Shrine Auditorium at 8 p. m. April 11. The announcement was made by L. A. Alesen, M. D., director of the Los Angeles Freedom Club.

Welch has been in the candy manufacturing business all his adult life. He was a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Manufacturers for seven years. He also served three years as a regional vice president of NAM, and two years as a chairman of its educational advisory committee.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4/8/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR WARDEN WOOLARD

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-86 BY SP4-GJA/JM

100-59001-254

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

957

Justice Dept. Concerned About Birch Society

**Inquiries About Group Increasing;
FBI Director Raps 'Vigilante Action'**

BY JOHN H. AVERILL, Times Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — The Department of Justice is "concerned" about the John Birch Society, a department spokesman said Friday.

At the same time, FBI Director Hoover—without referring specifically to the ultra-conservative anti-Communist Birch society—criticized what he described as vigilante action by Americans fighting communism.

The Justice Department spokesman declined to say whether it had begun an investigation of the society.

Many Inquiries

"The growing number of inquiries the Justice Department has received about the John Birch Society has made it a matter of concern to the attorney general," he said. He did not elaborate on the statement and there was no direct comment on the subject from Atty. Gen. Kennedy.

Hoover's comments appeared in a signed editorial in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin.

"The job of curtailing and containing communism is one for legally constituted authorities with the steadfast co-operation of every loyal citizen," Hoover said.

"This is neither the time for inaction nor vigilante action..."

The FBI spokesman declined to say whether Hoover had the John Birch Society in mind.

Meanwhile, Rep. Utt (R-

Santa Ana) accused Robert Welch, the society's founder and leader, of employing dictatorial tactics reminiscent of Nazi Germany.

Utt, one of California's most conservative members of Congress, had strong praise for the anti-Communist society itself and its objectives. But he said he was deeply disturbed by the "authoritarian policies" of Welch.

Utt indicated Welch is the chief reason he has not joined the society himself.

"My best friends and supporters are members of the John Birch Society," Utt told reporters. "And my sole reservation about the society is the power and central control held by Robert Welch."

Book on Germany

Utt said he had just read the current best seller, "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," and that he saw "in Welch a parallel with one-man control in Germany."

Because of concern with Welch's tactics, Utt said he wrote to Welch last August and again recently warning that one-man control could turn the society "into a Gerald L. K. Smith organization."

Please Turn to Pg. 4, Col. 6

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY 504-8506/1

LOS ANGELES TIMES
DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR NICK WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

PART 1 PAGE 1
COL 2-3

100-59001-255

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

257



HEAD OF BIRCH SOCIETY—Robert H. W. Welch Jr., 61, retired industrialist and head of the controversial rightist John Birch Society, gestures as he talks in his Belmont (Mass.) office Friday. He founded the society in 1958.

(P) Wirephoto

LOS ANGELES TIMES
DATE 4-1-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR NICK WILLIAMS
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

*PART 1 PAGE 4
COL 3-5*

Welch Doubts State Can Probe Group

Robert Welch, national leader of the anti-Communist John Birch Society, expressed doubt here Sunday California could investigate the society's activities but said he would welcome such action.

There is a legal question of whether any State has the right to conduct an investigation that would be of national concern, he said, adding:

"I think the proper place is in Congress, before either the House or Senate, and the sooner it can be set up, the better."

The 61-year old Belmont, Mass., retired candy manufacturer, here for a series of public talks, appeared on Dr. James W. Fife's weekly telecast Sunday afternoon.

He will address the Freedom Club of Dr. Fife's First Congregational Church Tuesday night at Shrine Auditorium, where the clergyman said 6000 tickets for the talk were completely sold out at a dollar each.

A spokesman for the Freedom Club said Welch's ap-

pearance is being taped and will be telecast in its entirety Tuesday at 10:30 p.m. over KTTV, Channel 11.

Welch said that in his telegram to Sacramento requesting a probe of the John Birch Society by the State Attorney General's office, he emphasized that "none of our crowd will take the Fifth Amendment."

"But we would not want a hidden executive session. We want the truth brought out."

Under Dr. Fife's questioning, Welch traced the two-year history of the society which he said has got together "a wonderful body of patriotic men and women who have awakened the public to what is going on."

He defined the group's long range target as "the disease of collectivism," but explained that "we have to stop the Communists first." About 50 letter writing campaigns are now being conducted by the society, he said.

Welch charged that there has been "considerable amount of connivance" in the Government.

The Communist conspiracy

couldn't have made progress without some connivance with people in high political places," he commented.

Of the society's membership, Welch said only two members had ever been dropped, one in California which he declined to discuss. The other was "an old lady who was lonely and liked to attend meetings, and we suggested that she resign," he said.

"The society's meetings are not semi-secret in any way, but we don't give out the names of members or the number. Otherwise it's entirely open, and although we don't urge the press to attend meetings, they are free to come."

Dr. Fife, commenting that Welch reminded him of Senator McCarthy, said he wished to be joined in Welch's position, and predicted the current "hysteria" would rally a million members for the society.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATE 4-10-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR WARDEN WOODARD
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/MY

100-59001-286

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1961	
[Redacted Box]	

954

b6

b7C

Birch Chief Asks Probe by Congress, Not State

Welch, on Dr. Fifield's TV Program Here, Says He Prefers U.S. Inquiry

BY GENE BLAKE

Robert Welch, head of the controversial John Birch Society, said here Sunday that the organization should be investigated by a committee of the U.S. Congress rather than the California Legislature.

Welch made the observation in an appearance on the KCOP (13) television program of Dr. James W. Fifield Jr., minister of the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles and founder of its Freedom Club.

Dr. Fifield, who expressed wholehearted support of Welch's views, introduced the 61-year-old retired candy manufacturer with these words:

"We had a man here who reminds me of you — Mr. Joseph McCarthy. He was murdered for his country. He was a martyr for the cause."

Inquiry Announced

The discussion of an investigation apparently had reference to an announcement Saturday by the State Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities that it has scheduled an inquiry into the John Birch Society for some time after the Legislature adjourns in June.

Welch noted that he and his fellow members had demanded such an investigation when it was first suggested and had emphasized that no member would plead the Fifth Amendment.

"But we would not want executive sessions in secrecy," he said. "We want to bring out the truth."

Dr. Fifield pointed out that the society is a national organization and suggested that the proper place for an

investigation is in the federal government.

"Without a doubt," Welch replied. "Besides, a Supreme Court decision has said that states can have nothing to do with subversive acts."

Welch said he would welcome a national investigation by "properly constituted authority ... either one of the committees of the House or Senate."

Dr. Fifield expressed the opinion that the proper agency would be the Senate Committee on Internal Security, headed by Sen. Eastland (D-Miss.). Welch has requested an inquiry by that committee.

Sen. Hugh M. Burns (D-Fresno), in announcing the state investigations, said his committee wants to find out if the society is "tied to a foreign ideology" or based on any "master race theory."

"You are not a Nazi, are you?" Dr. Fifield asked Welch.

Denies Secrecy

"Nothing like it," Welch replied. "Our members know that the whole basis of this charge is that the society has a method of protecting ourselves against Communist infiltration, which would destroy it."

Welch said there is nothing secret about the society except that "we do not tell how many members we have and we will not tell the names of our members."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/mj

Both participants in the program declined to deal specifically with the most controversial charge leveled against Welch. This was his declaration in a "confidential" communication several years ago that former President Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy" and a "traitor."

Dr. Fifield announced that no names would be mentioned because of the risk of libel. But he divulged that he had received and read this communication, which has been dubbed both the "black book" and "The Politician."

Called Betrayal of Trust

The minister said he had asked and received permission from Welch to show it to one other person and then had returned it to Welch. He wondered how anyone could have the temerity to release it to the press.

"It was a betrayal of trust," Welch said. "It was completely unethical journalism. It was just a letter."

"You have made some statements that someone high in our government has furthered the Communist

conspiracy," Dr. Fifield remarked. "Could the Communist conspiracy have made the strides it has without the unknowing connivance on the part of people high in our government in the last 14 years?"

"I don't think it could have," Welch replied. "Certainly, there has been a considerable amount of connivance of people in our government."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-10-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK B. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

b6

b7C

100-59001-257

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

951

Claims Disavowal

"But in the very document referred to, I pointed out that I would not quarrel with anyone who wanted to ascribe this to political opportunism."

Welch said critics have tried to blame the organization for things he said in a private, confidential letter not intended for publication and disavowed by those who formed the John Birch Society.

He said he was born a conservative and really began to get into the fight when he went to England after World War II to study the Socialist government.

"I began to find Communist hands, conspiratorial hands, under socialism," he said. "The more I studied, the more I found that what we were putting down to political opportunism were plans being made behind the scenes by Communist conspirators."

Foe of Worker

Welch said impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren is only one of many objectives of the John Birch Society. He said the group has participated in about 50 different letter-writing campaigns.

In response to a question by Dr. Fifield, Welch said the prevention of the communization of America is the major effort of the society only "for the present years."

"We are trying to prevent the flight to amorality and the disease of collectivism," he said. "But we've got to stop the Communists first. The primary objective is to educate as many neighbors and fellow-citizens as possible."

Welch said he will deal at greater length with the tenets of the society and the charges leveled against it in his address Tuesday night in Shrine Auditorium under auspices of the Freedom Club.

Dr. Fifield expressed re-

gret that no more tickets are available for the meeting, declaring he has heard that the Sports Arena or even the Coliseum could have been sold out for the event.

Note: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Subject's name and aliases BIRCH SOCIETY			Address of subject b6 b7C			Character of case			
Complainant [Redacted]			Complainant's address and telephone number [Redacted]			Complaint received <input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephonic Date 4-10-61 Time 4:15 AM			
Subject's Description	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Height	Hair	Build	Birth date and Birthplace			
	Age		Weight	Eyes	Complexion				
	Scars, marks or other data								
	Facts of complaint <p>Complainant said he was thinking about joining Birch Society and he wanted to know if it was subversive. He was informed that the FBI would make no comment concerning it. [Redacted] said he would join it anyway and wanted his call be recorded. He said if he learns that it is subversive in any way he would immediately report it to FBI.</p> <p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/SM</p>								
Action Recommended <i>Index and file</i>			[Redacted]			<p>100-59001-258</p> <p>SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED 1 APR 10 1961 FBI - LOS ANGELES</p>			



WELCH HERE—Robert Welch, founder and head of the Birch Society, arrives at Los Angeles International Airport for a Southland speaking tour.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
DATE 4-9-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR Nick B. Williams
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION
Section A, Page A

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/UM

b6

b7C

100-59001-259

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <u>mo</u>	FILED <u>mo</u>
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Handwritten signature]

John Birch Society's Founder Arrives Here

Robert Welch in L.A. for Series of Talks;
Issues Statement Denouncing 'Falsehoods'

BY GENE BLAKE

Robert Welch, founder and head of the controversial John Birch Society, arrived here Saturday by American Airlines jet from Boston for a series of speaking engagements in Southern California.

He was met at the plane by Paul H. (Tex) Talbert, Beverly Hills insurance executive who is a member of the society's national council; Dr. L. A. Alesen, director of the Freedom Club of the First Congregational Church, and a man who identified himself as B. Bennett.

Reporters and photographers also were on hand, prompting Welch to remark: "If I had known you fellows were going to be here I would have got up and washed my face."

Mimeographed Statement

Talbert handed newsmen a mimeographed statement attributed to Welch. A reporter asked Welch if he had anything to add to the prepared statement.

"I don't know, I haven't read it yet," Welch replied. "Sure you have, you wrote it," Talbert assured him. "It's all right."

After glancing at the statement, Welch acknowledged that he had, indeed, written it himself. Reporters then recognized it as one he issued at a press conference in Belmont, Mass., nine days ago, with an introductory paragraph updating it.

"Robert Welch, upon arriving in Los Angeles this weekend," it said, "issued a statement to counter what he termed 'falsehoods' now being so widely circulated about me." The statement is as follows:

"Nowhere in my private or published writings have I ever called

President Eisenhower a 'card-carrying' Communist. Anybody who says I have is either knowingly dealing in falsehood or is badly misinformed.

"Even in my private confidential letter written years ago, which it has been completely unethical for anybody to quote anywhere, and in which I stated in the blunt language of a personal letter some harsh personal opinions of our then President, I made it very clear at the end of the letter that I had no quarrel with anybody who wished to attribute his actions simply to political opportunism. That is how the letter came to be dubbed 'The Politician.'

False or Distorted

"Also please note that this long letter had been read in 1955 by most of the men who were at the founding meeting of the John Birch Society in December, 1958. Despite having read my letter most of them had vigorously supported Eisenhower in the 1956 campaign. And at the founding of the society the letter was discussed and specifically disavowed by the group as being no part of the materials or belief of the John Birch Society in any way.

"Please note, too, that, despite falsehoods now being circulated, I have gone out of my way to make clear in my books that I did not think either Roosevelt or

Please Turn to Pg. 8,

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-9-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Nick B. Williams

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

Part A, Page A

WELCH

Continued from Page A

Truman were Communists or sympathizers in any way with ultimate Communist aims. And there are many other statements being attributed to me that are equally false or distorted.

"The John Birch Society is not, simply because we have sought to avoid publicity, thereby a secret society. Our objective has been to build strength and understanding instead of creating noise. All of our materials are wide open for anybody to purchase.

"The John Birch Society is a group of splendid men and women of good character, fervent patriotism, religious ideals and excellent standing in their respective communities. It has broken no law, violated no moral principles, and has as a firmly stated foundation of its program that even good ends never justify bad means.

Only 'Crime'

"We ask at least the responsible part of the American press to have more regard for the truth about us.

S O U T H B A Y
hawthorne and 174th st.

P.M.
STORES
9:30 P.M.

Welch Here, Vows Fight to Finish

• Picture on Page B.

Robert Welch, founder and leader of the John Birch Society, asserted here Saturday "our only 'crime' is fighting communism, and we intend to continue until our side wins."

He declined to comment on U. S. Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy's description of the organization as "ridiculous," "humorous," and a hindrance in the struggle against communism.

The 61-year-old Belmont, Mass., retired candy manufacturer arrived here via American Airlines for a series of public talks, and an appearance on Dr. James W. Fifield's weekly telecast today at 5 p. m. on KCOP.

In a prepared statement, Welch repeated his denials of charges he called former

President Eisenhower a "card carrying" Communist, and said he has gone out of his way to make clear he did not think either Roosevelt or Truman were Communists or sympathizers in any way.

Welch was met at International Airport by Paul H. Talbert, Beverly Hills insurance broker, and Dr. L. A. Alesen, director of the First Congregational Church's Freedom Club. Welch will address this club Tuesday at 8 p. m. at Shrine Auditorium.

At 8 p. m. Wednesday, he will talk at the San Marcos High School, Santa Barbara. His speech is sponsored by the Tri-Counties chapter of the John Birch Society covering Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-9-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Warden Woolard

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

Part 1, Page 1

cc - Bureau

4/10/61

LWS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

b6

b7C

100-59001-260

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]



LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
 DATE 4-9-61
 LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
 EDITOR Warden Woolard
 LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION
 Part 1, Page B

—Los Angeles Examiner photo.
 , LEFT, IS GREETED BY PAUL J. TALBERT
 of charges he called Ike a "card carrying Red."



STEVE SIMON, LEFT, READS PLANS TO COMBAT BIRCH EFFORTS
From right: Jack Forem, Robert Martin, David Arnold, Lincoln Kilian.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATE 4-9-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR Warden Woolard
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION
Part I, Page 1

cc - Bureau
4/10/61
JVF

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

b6
b7C

100-59001-261

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

957

**'I WAS A LEADER IN THE
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY'**

Hysterical Prophecy of Red Rule Told

- Read Jim Peck's Column, Page 17.
- John Birch's war record praised. Page B.

By **DAVID ARNOLD**
as told to **James Peck**

The first thing that needs to be said is that these articles will not smear individuals. There are many patriotic Americans in the John Birch society. I believe they are deluded. I hope that they will withdraw. But they are not criminals.

When I joined the Birch society I expected conservatism, I did not expect hysteria, deception, feelings of persecution.

I did not expect to find myself locked in a secret hiding place, listening to an agitated man named **Chet Merriam** tell me:

● "BUSINESSMEN will be marched out to the edge of town to dig their own graves . . .

● "WATER SUPPLIES of whole towns will be poisoned . . .

● "THE COMMUNISTS in our Army will take it over and use it against the American people . . ."

He had the whole thing figured out.

First, he told us, will come the absolute destruction of the dollar through the programs proposed by the Kennedy Administration. This development, he said, is "just around the corner."

Then, in the resultant chaos, national strikes will be called.

Carefully trained Communist units then will begin taking over every American city. They will seize communications centers, establish roadblocks, isolate their areas. Persons collected at the roadblocks will either be executed on the spot or marched off to concentration camps.

Prominent members of the community will be rounded up and exterminated.

The only group ready to defend America against this reign of terror, he assured us, is the John Birch Society's underground.

An 18-year-old girl sucked in her breath, aghast.

The faces of the boys turned grim.

And they believed . . .

● OUR BIRCH UNIT oper-

Turn to Page B, Cols. 1-4

Examiner Exclusive

An 18-year-old University of California at Santa Barbara political science student, **David Arnold**, has revealed he spent the past two months as a member of a secret campus chapter of the John Birch Society, the conservative-nationalist, anti-Communist group which has been making national headlines recently.

Arnold, who worked his way up to leader of the Birch unit and vice president-elect of another group he describes as a Birch front, herewith begins a series of exclusive articles in which he describes proceedings of secret meetings, cloak-and-dagger rendezvous, reports of an underground military movement and many Birch members' absolute conviction that the Communists will take over the United States unless the Birch philosophy prevails.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATE 4-9-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR Warden Woolard
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION
Part 1, Page 1

CAMPUS BIRCH SOCIETY

Student Group Sets Up a Counter Force

From Page One: the information I could easily obtain about Birch operations, could toss an occasional monkey-wrench into the works. Our main purpose was to bring the connection between Birch and the Santa Barbara Freedom Club into the open.

Four of my student friends—Lincoln Killian, Robert Martin, Steve Simon, and Jack Forem—formed "Publius." We borrowed the pseudonym from John Jay, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, who used it as a pen name when writing the "Federalist" papers.

A fellow Birch member and I even went to the FBI to deny charges by another campus group that the Birch and Freedom units were linked and to provide information for an FBI investigation of the "other group."

That "other group" was "Publius."

Soon after I had joined the Birchers I decided to set up a counterforce which, using

the information I could easily obtain about Birch operations, could toss an occasional monkey-wrench into the works. Our main purpose was to bring the connection between Birch and the Santa Barbara Freedom Club into the open.

Four of my student friends—Lincoln Killian, Robert Martin, Steve Simon, and Jack Forem—formed "Publius." We borrowed the pseudonym from John Jay, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, who used it as a pen name when writing the "Federalist" papers.

Together we wrote and distributed the "Publius" articles and planned the strategy to be used in exposing the relationship between the two conservative groups.

We spent many sleepless nights preparing "Publius"

material. My "Publius" friends also spent a good deal of time helping me do paperwork for the organizations we were working to expose.

Linc Killiam, especially, was to play a meaningful role in the deception.

LINC HAD become quite cozy with several members of the Freedom Club and was on the verge of being accepted for membership when a complication arose.

We had arranged for a disconcerting telegram from "Publius" to be delivered at a secret Birch meeting at a Santa Barbara motel.

To my great discomfort, only a handful of the most trusted members showed up for the meeting, I among them. I appeared to be in

serious danger of discovery.

So I denounced Linc to my fellow Birchmen as a probable Communist and the security leak which had tipped "Publius."

It really worked out pretty well because I didn't even have to stop seeing Linc—the Birchmen assigned me to gain his confidence and report back.

We still call poor old Linc "The Commie."

MONDAY: How the Birch Society planned to recruit among high school students and how "Publius" worked against them. Follow this exclusive inside report daily in *The Examiner*. Phone Richmond 8-1212 for prompt delivery.

it was decided to soft peddle the Society's activities and concentrate on the Freedom Club. The following officers of the latter were elected. Samuel Hollom (President)

EXCERPT FROM BIRCH SOCIETY REPORT OF FEB. 19 TO ROBERT WELCH'S HEADQUARTERS
It indicates the chapter's control over the Santa Barbara Freedom Club, soft pedaling of society actions.

Birch Society Undermines U.S., Says Javits

PRINCETON, N. J. (UPI)—
Sen. Javits, R., N. Y., said Saturday he hoped for continued exposure—even to the extent of a congressional investigation—of the John Birch Society.

In a speech on world affairs at Princeton University, the Senator said the society's membership "undermines the very foundations of the Republic because they jeopardize the confidence of the people in their tried and proven leaders."

Javits cited the society as an example of conservatism that can "lead to movements that feed on our national frustrations and can undermine our national heritage of freedom."

The Birch organization was a reminder "that the principles of a free society can be eroded from the extreme right as well as the extreme left," Javits said.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-9-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Warden Woolard

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

Part 1, Page B

cc - Bureau 4/10/61
R12

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

b6

b7C

100-59001-262

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

951

Defends John Birch Society

Rousselot Refutes Atty. Gen. Kennedy

WASHINGTON, April 8 (UPI)—Rep. John H. Rousselot, Republican of California, a member of the John Birch Society, took issue yesterday with Attorney General Robert Kennedy's statement that the group was "ridiculous" and made "no contribution to the fight against communism."

"I believe that these remarks are very unfortunate and irresponsible," Rousselot said.

The California Republican said it was "hard for me to understand how Mr. Kennedy could have arrived at these conclusions" if he had studied the society's publications, or had attended a local chapter meeting.

Rousselot said Kennedy showed "lack of understanding as to one of the main purposes" of the society.

That purpose, he said, was "to keep its members and guests fully informed as to the nature, purpose and intent of the Communist conspiracy in this country."

"This refutes Mr. Kennedy's argument that they make no contribution to the fight against Communism," he said, "because, on the contrary, the John Birch Society contributes by keeping its chapter members and others informed."

LOS ANGELES EVENING
HERALD-EXPRESS
DATE 4-8-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR HERBERT H. KRAUCH
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

100-59001-263

b6

b7C

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/LM

Rousselot Hits Bob Kennedy on Birch Stand

Times Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Rep. John H. Rousselot (R-San Gabriel) accused Atty. Gen. Kennedy Friday of being irresponsible for describing the John Birch Society as ridiculous and a hindrance in the fight against communism.

Rousselot, one of two California congressmen who have identified themselves as members of the controversial anti-Communist society, suggested the attorney general didn't know what he was talking about. Kennedy made his comment on the Birch Society at a press conference Thursday, saying:

"I think they are ridiculous. I don't think anyone should pay any attention to them. I don't think they make any contribution to the fight against communism in the United States and if anything they are a hindrance."

Rousselot Replies

To this, Rousselot replied: "I believe that these remarks are very unfortunate and irresponsible . . . It is hard for me to understand how Mr. Kennedy could have arrived at these conclusions if he had fully read the John Birch Society blue book or if he had been to a local chapter meeting.

"To say that the society makes no contribution to the fight against communism is to show his lack of understanding as one of the main purposes of each chapter is to keep its members and guests who attend fully informed as to the nature, purpose and intent of the Communist conspiracy in this country."

Rousselot also disclosed that he has accepted an invitation to defend the Birch Society in a nationally televised debate later this month.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4/8/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

VISITS COUNTY

Birch Leader Welcomes Probe

One of the top leaders of the controversial John Birch Society said he would definitely welcome an investigation of the organization "by any duly constituted legal body."

Paul H. Talbert, a Beverly Hills insurance broker and a member of the 25-member national council of the society, told members of the Orange County Press Club Thursday night this was the first time "in a long while" he had agreed with Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, of Anaheim, R-Calif.

Kuchel Thursday denounced the Birch Society and its founder as "outrageous" and called for a Senate investigation of their activities.

Talbert said the tenets of the society "have nothing to do with the allegations made by Sen. Kuchel."

Flatly stating the organization was not a secret society, Talbert said the Birch group was publishing advertisements for its widely publicized "Blue Book", a statement of aims and principles, in various newspapers. He said the society has had an office at 3750 W. Sixth St. in Los Angeles for some months.

The Birch Society, Talbert said, "is for less government, more responsibility, individual freedom and a better world."

"We want to stop as soon as we can the socialization of our government," Talbert said.

He said the Birch Society was working for "the return of the kind of government our forefathers founded."

Rapping the World Court of the U.N. as a debating society, Talbert said the preservation of the United States and its sovereignty was a primary goal of the society.

Among the things the Birch Society is working for, he said, is the retention of the Connally amendment which limits jurisdiction of the World Court in U.S. affairs.

Talbert denied the society had named former President Eisenhower as a Communist.

"Our society has not named any of those people listed in the papers as Communists," he said. He said the labeling of individuals as Communists is not a function of the society.

Queried as to whether he agreed with Robert Welch, founder of the Birch Society, who had been

(Turn to Page A8, Column 1)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/TM

THE REGISTER

DATE 3/31/61
SANTA ANA, CALIF.

EDITOR Clarence B. Thompson
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

160

b6

b7C

100-59001-264

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1961	
LOS ANGELES	

987

More About

Birch Speaker

(Continued from Page A1)

reported as saying Eisenhower was a Communist, Talbert said, "I don't believe Mr. Eisenhower is a Communist."

He said demands for an apology for the Welch statements, which reportedly appeared in a letter written by Welch and circulated among his friends, would have to be answered by Welch.

Talbert said the group had neither religious or racial barriers but wanted "all men of good faith."

He said he was unable to say how many members and chapters the society had in Orange County. Talbert said he knew personally of only one member in the county.

"If you would ask me how many members and chapters there are in Beverly Hills," Talbert said, "I could tell you."

He said he was also unable to provide a list of membership of

the organization, adding that this information would have to be obtained on a local basis.

★ ★ ★

Birch's Death Told by Ex-Officer

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—The president of a Billings radio-television station says "there was no real object lesson" and "certainly no glory" in the death of the man for whom the John Birch Society was named.

Joseph Sample, president of KOOK and KOOK-TV, said he served as a first lieutenant in 1945-46 in the same Office of Strategic Services detachment in northern China to which Birch was assigned. Sample reviewed circumstances of Birch's death in a weekly newspaper interview. He said his knowledge of the case was based on an oral report by a staff sergeant with Birch at the time of his death.

Said Sample:

"When World War II erupted, Birch was a missionary serving in China. His familiarity with the country led to his assignment as an intelligence officer with Gen. Chennault's Flying Tigers. He was later transferred to Detachment 202 of the Office of Strategic Services, Gen. 'Wild Bill' Donovan's supersecret intelligence agency, operating out of Kunming, China."

By the fall of 1945, Sample said, the local war lord at Kunming was involved in a power struggle with Chiang Kai-Shek's central government and had threatened to seize all American arms for private use.

"Against this background,

Capt. Birch was assigned a mission in central China. His was a small team, consisting of a staff sergeant, a radio operator, interpreter, and a code clerk. The mission should have been routine.

"Upon his arrival at the designated area the team was met by a force of Chinese Reds. The Chinese were understandably disturbed by what seemed to them an unwarranted intrusion into their area and demanded an explanation.

"Capt. Birch chose to attempt to bluff his way out of a difficult situation. Harsh words led to insults, and insults to arrogance. Finally, in a fit of rage, the Chinese Communist leader shot Birch. This was Aug. 25, 1945, 10 days after VJ day.

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-2-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Wardlaw Woodland

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/SM

b6

b7C

100-59101-266

INDEXED	FILED
661	951

DREW PEARSON

Birch Society Weakened by Wild Charges

WASHINGTON—A newspaper columnist's mail is usually a pretty good cross-section of what the people of America are thinking. Of late, my mail has become more voluminous than ever, as more people want information about the Kennedy administration or want to argue about the new President.

Here is part of one day's answer to a newspaper columnist's mail.

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, Marble Collegiate Church, New York—I appreciate the information that, although you did attend a meeting of Protestant clergy which later issued a statement doubting the qualifications of a Catholic for President, you had nothing to do with the preparation of the statement and never signed it.

William Friedman, Detroit—Although some members of the Kennedy administration were convinced that Defense Secretary McNamara had been advised by David Rockefeller and Henry Ford II not to appoint Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. as secretary of the Navy, this was not correct.

I CARRIED the denial of the Ford office at the time, and since then have further confirmation from David Rockefeller. He wasn't even remotely cognizant of the matter.



PEARSON

The Rockefeller family has kept out of Kennedy politics and cabinet appointments.

W. Roy Pace, Carlsbad, Cal.—The petition to secure 10 million names supporting the late Sen. McCarthy fell so far short of even a million names that the total was never published.

Frank Gibson, Lewiston, Me.—The John Birch Society has flourished in some areas, chiefly because it has had the backing of important business leaders, among them William Grade, president of the J. I. Case Farm Implement Co.; Cola Parker, head of Kimberly-Clark, and J. Coleman Andrews, of Richmond, Va., former commissioner of internal revenue. In California, Rep. Hiestand of Altadena is a member.

IN GENERAL, the extreme charges of the society, namely, that Eisenhower "was a devoted and convinced Communist" who took orders from his brother Milton, and that John Foster Dulles, was a "Communist agent," have soured, most sensible people regarding the society.

American newspapers face the difficult alternative of ignoring the society and letting it grow clandestinely, or criticizing it, thereby giving it publicity.

Mrs. Margaret Schumm, Seattle—I did not go to Europe with the American Friends Service Committee in 1919 to escape the draft. The war was over at that time and I had already served in the U.S. Army.

Unlike the postwar period of today, there was no draft after World War I, and I was in no way obligated to respond to military service or any other service.

I WROTE a recent column regarding this two-year service abroad, in what might have then been called a "peace corps," only because of the tremendous amount of interest on the part of current American youth in the Kennedy Peace Corps; and because of my belief that young people who take time out to work for others actually get more from it than they realize.

Russell M. Anderson, Haverstown, Pa.—In my opinion federal aid to education is absolutely necessary if we are going to keep American schools ahead of the fast-moving system of Russian education. I do not believe federal aid for teachers' salaries will affect what these teachers teach, any more than federal aid to medical schools—which now totals half a billion dollars annually—affects what these doc-

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 4/8/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR ARTHUR LARO

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

100-59001-267

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

951

tors practice or their laboratory tests.

M. Louise Valle, Los Angeles — Probably you failed to note one of my earlier columns in which I reported that President Betancourt of Venezuela had once been a Communist, but long ago gave up that doctrine. He is now, like many other ex-Communists, a vigorous foe of Communists and is hated by them.

Mrs. Harry J. Peters, Los Angeles — The testimony before the U.S. Senate Education Subcommittee that the Catholic bishops of Puerto Rico founded their own "Catholic Action Party" after the Puerto Rican legislature refused to permit religious teaching in the schools is borne out by historical fact and as far as I know has never been denied by the Catholic Bishops or anyone except you.

THERE IS NO question whatsoever that the Catholic bishops of Puerto Rico threatened parishioners with excommunication during the last election if they voted for Gov. Luis Munoz Marin and his party — which had opposed religious teaching in the schools.

The action of the Catholic bishops in Puerto Rico undoubtedly was deplored by many Catholics in the United States, including President Kennedy, who suffered from it during the election. Nevertheless, it did happen.

Mrs. J. C. Tennison, Great Mills, Md. — Sen. Butler of Nebraska was misinformed when he wrote in 1943 that the United States had poured "six thousand million dollars" into Latin America in a gigantic hemispheric hand-out.

WE HAVE given no such money to Latin America at any time, nor have we loaned or given Latin America anywhere near a fraction of the money we have advanced or given to western Europe.

The current Kennedy proposal of \$500 million in development loans to Latin America, plus \$100 million of foreign aid, contrasts with approximately \$4 billion of foreign aid to other parts of the world voted in the last Eisenhower budget.

Isbell School, Santa Paula, Cal. — Thank you so much for the \$8.78 collected by the members of your schoolroom for the "University of the Americas."

The fact that you collected the money by selling marbles and giving up your own luncheon money will be very much appreciated by the Cuban refugees who are now struggling to get an education in the United States.

Bares Link to Birch Society

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., April 8 (UPI)—An 18-year-old University of California student here has revealed he deliberately became a member of a right-wing campus group for two months to prove its connection with the ultraconservative John Birch Society.

David Arnold of San Leandro, Calif., a political science major made the disclosure as he resigned as vice president of the Freedom Club, a self-described conservative and patriotic student organization, and was also sending a letter resigning his Birch membership to Robert Welch, the society's founder.

LOS ANGELES EVENING

HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 4-8-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR HERBERT H. KRAUCH

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/SM

100-59001-268

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>Mo</i>	FILED <i>Mo</i>
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

JST

Leader Who Infiltrated Campus Birchers Quits

UC Santa Barbara Freshman Reveals
Dual Role; Tells of 'Front' Organization

BY GENE BLAKE, Times Staff Representative

SANTA BARBARA — An 18-year-old freshman at the University of California here revealed Friday that he infiltrated the campus chapter of the John Birch Society through the Freedom Club, which he described as a "front" for the controversial ultra-conservative group.

David Arnold, a political science major, made the disclosure when he announced his resignation as leader of the John Birch unit and as vice president of the Freedom Club.

While serving in both groups, Arnold said, he also participated in a group known as Publius, which harassed the other two organizations with bulletin board letters suggesting their secret connection.

Offices Switched

It was because of this harassing that officerships in both organizations were switched around, leaving open the job of leader of the campus John Birch Society. Arnold said he was given this job a week ago by a coordinator for the John Birch Society.

According to Arnold, there are 15 members of the Freedom Club on the university campus and nine of them constitute the entire roster of the John Birch unit there.



David Arnold

Joins in February

Arnold said he joined the Freedom Club in February. After determining it was an organ for the Birch Society, he said he decided prospective members should be warned.

He said he and four friends then formed Publius, a name borrowed from the combined pen name of Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison during the fight for ratification of the United States Constitution.

Arnold revealed his dual role Friday in the university newspaper, El Gaucho, which also reproduced copies of his

resignation and reports of John Birch Society meetings.

He said that as publicity chairman of the Freedom Club he had participated in the mailing of an announcement to the entire 11th and 12th grade student body at the San Marcos High School. Titled "Will You Be Free to Celebrate Christmas in the Future?" the announcement exhorted the students to join the Freedom Club.

Mails Warnings

Arnold said that in his role as a Publius member, he then mailed warnings to all of the children's parents, pointing out that the Freedom Club was a front for the John Birch Society.

Arnold also made available a report signed by a former leader of the John Birch Society unit, which read in part as follows:

"In view of the fact that the very bad smear of the society on the college campus has left us powerless to stand up publicly for the society... it was decided to soft pedal the society's activities and concentrate on the Freedom Club."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4/8/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

100-59001-269

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

257

Birch Recruiting in Schools Bared by Youth Leader



DAVID ARNOLD

Under Birch underground.

• "Unbalanced, excited and definitely out of focus." Read charge made by Pilot, leading Catholic paper, against Birch Society. P. 10.

• Conniff critics wire protest to FBI, Page 2.

By JAMES PECK

SANTA BARBARA — An 18-year-old University of California-Santa Barbara freshman revealed Friday he has been a member of the ultra-conservative John Birch Society for more than two months.

David Arnold, a political science major whose home is in San Leandro, kept detailed records of his experiences and collected information which indicates the Birch Society is attempting to recruit college and high school youths through the use of affiliated clubs.

During his 2-month masquerade he also functioned secretly in another group attacking the Birchers.

As this story is being written in a motel room with Arnold beside me, the Birch group is unaware their chapter leader is no longer one of them. Only a few minutes ago he was asked by telephone to meet with his fellow members at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Arnold's ~~double~~ life began in early February when he visited the American Opinion Library, run by the Birch Society. He had become curious when he read a letter to the editor of a Santa Barbara newspaper from a Birch member, inviting those interested to drop in at the library.

Arnold knew nothing of the Birch Society. He said he went simply because of his interest in politics.

Two things occurred during the visit: Arnold said he learned what the Birch group stood for and its tactics and realized immediately that he was "deeply opposed to its philosophy"; and he met a man named Chet Merriam.

Merriam, a 26-year-old self-styled "evangelist," at first presented himself simply as a member of the Santa Barbara Freedom Club, a con-

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4/8/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR WARDEN WOOLARD

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/KM

100-59001-270

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

957

YOUTH LEADER SAYS:

Some in Birch Society Told to Buy Arms

From Page One

servative youth group recently organized here. But he was soon to identify himself to Arnold as a salaried area youth coordinator for the John Birch Society, claiming to be responsible only to Robert Welch, the organization's founder.

Arnold said he allowed himself to be recruited into both the Birch and Freedom groups and played his right-wing role so successfully he became leader of the campus chapter of the Birch Society and vice president-elect of the Freedom Club.

Arnold said he was upset at what he learned. He secretly formed an opposition group, "Publius," composed of four other students who borrowed the pen name used by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison when they were fighting for ratification of the United States Constitution.



CHET MERRIAM

Paid youth recruiter.

"Publius" needed the Birch and Freedom groups by suggesting a connection between them on bulletin boards, in the letters column of the campus paper, by following up Freedom Club mailings with a counterattack sent to the same mailing list (mysteriously acquired), and by having irreverent telegrams delivered to a secret meeting of the Birchers.

As the tactics and philosophy of the groups he had penetrated were revealed to him by their members, these were some of the things which Arnold said upset him:

- HYSTERICAL warnings "that within two years the Communists will take over the United States, murdering, pillaging, destroying."

- THAT A BIRCH underground is functioning, commanded by retired military officers.

- "LYING, DECEPTION and duplicity" were accepted by members as legitimate weapons against the Communist Conspiracy.

- THE MEMBERSHIP, almost in toto, believed government, education and the clergy team with Communist agents, many in positions of high authority.

- CERTAIN MEMBERS of the group "advised others to acquire weapons secretly so that when the Communists take over there would be no records in existence to pinpoint Birchers with weapons."

Friday morning, convinced he now had the information needed to prove his allegations, David Arnold sent this letter, written on an official John Birch Society chapter report, to his area coordinator.

Mr. Chet Merriam,
My Coordinator
P. O. Box 1083
Santa Barbara, Calif.

I am afraid I must resign my positions as vice president of the Freedom Club and leader of the secret chapter of the UCSB campus John Birch Society.

With all these meetings at motels and so forth, I have not been eating properly and have not kept in training for track meets. I have been neglecting my school work, also.

Being Publius has taken a lot of time, too.

Therefore, I must tender my resignation.

I will mail the white copy of this report to Mr. Welch at the home office of the John Birch Society, as directed below.

Respectfully,
S/David Arnold
Freshman
Anacapa Hall, UCSB.

Monday morning at 8 Arnold will be sitting in classroom 1115-C, Philosophy I, his "underground" mission completed. He said he's glad it's over because he's tired of lying about how he feels. His mother, who approves of his actions but has worried terribly, is glad it's over, too.

There is one thing Arnold is anxious for everyone to understand:

"This does not mean that I, in any way, underrate the danger of the Communist threat. There is a threat and it's a serious one.

"However, in order to fight this threat we find it necessary to forsake the ideals and principles for which our country has always stood, then we surely cannot have much respect or confidence in these ideals.

"I believe the Communist threat can and must be fought—but in the American tradition, where the ends don't justify the means and where duplicity and deceit are as foreign as communism itself."

Beginning Sunday The Examiner will publish the exclusive account by David Arnold of his two months in the John Birch Society, the ultra-conservative nationalist group which has caused a nationwide controversy.

Arnold will describe in detail proceedings of secret meetings, cloak and dagger rendezvous, reports of an underground military movement, and the predictions of a Communist takeover in the United States within two years.

Catholic Paper Calls Birchers Out of Focus

Organ of Boston Archdiocese Terms
Society 'a Good Thing Gone Wrong'

BOSTON (UPI) — The Pilot, official organ of the Boston Roman Catholic archdiocese, said Friday that the John Birch Society movement "with all kinds of good intentions allowed, is unbalanced, excited and definitely out of focus."

On Page 1 of the same issue, the Pilot printed a story on Richard Cardinal Cushing's speech Wednesday at North Easton. At that time the cardinal described Robert Welch, founder of the Birch Society, as "a sincere and dedicated man."

'Absurdities'

But the cardinal said that "anyone who suggests former President Eisenhower promoted Communist causes is speaking in absurdities." He added that "we must de-

plore the exaggerations and excesses which discredit even a good thing."

In its lead editorial, titled "The Unbalanced View," the newspaper said:

"In a world as complex as ours, simplification can be a vice and sincerity is no excuse for exaggeration. Nothing discredits a good cause quicker than supporting it by misrepresentation. When we feed the cause of genuine anti-communism with overstatement, we err just as badly as those who nourish communism itself by understatement..."

The Pilot said that the lessons which can be profitably drawn from such an endeavor — "a good thing gone wrong" — are many and should not be lost on thoughtful observers.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4/8/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/BM

100-59001-271

SEARCHED <u>mo</u>	INDEXED <u>mo</u>
SERIALIZED <u>mo</u>	FILED <u>mo</u>
APR 1 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

957

Welch to Talk at Shrine

Capacity Crowd to Hear Birch Leader

A capacity crowd is expected to turn out tomorrow night to hear a talk by Robert Welch, national leader of the anti-Communist John Birch Society, at the Shrine Auditorium.

Welch, who arrived here yesterday, declared the society "isn't secret," but is trying to "prevent the breakdown of morality," will address the Freedom Club of Dr. James W. Fifield's First Congregational Church.

Dr. Fifield said that 6000 tickets for the talk have been completely sold out. Welch's talk will be taped and will be telecast in full Tuesday at 8:30 p. m. over Channel 11, KTTV, according to a church spokesman.

The 61-year-old retired candy manufacturer from Belmont, Mass., said he would welcome an investigation of his group by California, but he expressed doubt that it could be done.

SEEKS U. S. PROBE

There is a legal question as to whether any state has the right to hold an investigation that would be of national concern, Welch said:

"I think the proper place is in Congress, before either the House or Senate, and the sooner it can be set up the better."

In a television interview last night with Dr. Fifield, the clergyman asked Welch if the society was semi-secret. Welch replied:

"It is not semi-secret in any way. We don't tell how many members we have, and we'll not tell the names of our members."

"Except for these two things there are no secrets about the John Birch Society."

OPPOSE COLLECTIVISM

Welch said the John Birch society, named for a missionary and air force intelligence

officer who was killed by Chinese Communists, is "trying to prevent the breakdown of morality."

He said also it opposes "the disease of collectivism . . . we've got to stop the Communists first. Our primary objective is to educate our neighbors and fellow citizens about what is happening."

Fifield said he had heard that a purpose of the society is to get Chief Justice Earl Warren deposed.

"That's just one of our specific objectives," said Welch.

STATE QUIZ

Some congressmen have called for investigation of the organization. Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy said last week he thinks the society is ridiculous, that its members "make no contribution . . . to the fight against Communism here in the United States, and a fact I think if anything they are a hindrance."

The California State Senate fact-finding committee on un-American activities announced Saturday it has scheduled an inquiry into the society for some time after the legislature adjourns in June.

Fifield, remarking that the society is a national organization, suggested the proper place for an investigation is at the federal government.

WELCOMES PROBE

"Without a doubt," Welch said. "Besides a Supreme court decision has said that states can have nothing to do with subversive acts."

Welch said he would welcome a national investigation by "properly constituted au-

thority . . . either one of the committees of the House or Senate."

Dr. Fifield asked "whether the Communist conspiracy could have made progress without the unknowing connivance of people high in government."

"I don't think so," Welch replied. "Certainly there has been a considerable amount of connivance within our government."

The pastor told Welch: "I predict that the present

hysteria about the John Birch Society will result in a million members for your society . . . God bless you . . ."

FBI Counterspy Backs Birchers

SAN DIEGO, April 10 (UPI)—Matt Cvetic, former American counterspy in Communist organizations, has endorsed the controversial John Birch Society.

"I have met many John Birchers," said Cvetic, "their aim is to preserve the American way of life. With the Reds in control of Cuba, 90 miles from our shores, it is high time some Americans became concerned."

Cvetic made these remarks after disclosing he sent a telegram to State Sen. Hugh M. Burns (D., Fresno).

The telegram criticized the California Democratic Council and urged Burns to "find out how the Kremlin's party life became part of the council's platform."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

LOS ANGELES EVENING
HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 4-10-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Herbert H. Krauch

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

100-59001-272

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

b6

b7C



Sen. Javits

Sen. Javits Asks Probe of Birch Society

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) Saturday called for a congressional investigation of the militantly conservative John Birch Society.

In a speech at the Princeton University Symposium on World Affairs, Javits said:

"The John Birch Society has now come along to remind us again that the principles of a free society can be eroded from the extreme right as well as the extreme left. Can we be complacent when men of position and influence seriously fight for the impeachment of Supreme Court (Chief) Justice Earl Warren? Or when its leader is a man who has seriously contended that President Eisenhower was 'a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy?' Or when a secret group purports to fix a Communist label on people who don't suit them? They undermine the very foundations of the republic because they jeopardize the confidence of the people in their tried and proven leaders.

"That is why, just as I have encouraged the continued exposure of ultra-leftist movements, I hope there will be a continued exposure of the John Birch Society — even of a congressional

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-94 BY SP4-BJM/SM

LOS ANGELES TIMES
DATE 4-9-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR Nick B. Williams
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION
Section A, Page 8

100-59001-223

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mo</i>	FILED <i>mo</i>
APR 10 1961	
FBI — LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

b6

b7C

John Birch Society Hit by NAM Resolution

NEW YORK (AP) — An executive of the National Assn. of Manufacturers disclosed Friday that the association adopted a resolution last September which indirectly rebuked the John Birch Society.

Charles Sligh, NAM executive vice president, said the resolution was drafted after it was claimed in some published articles that certain individuals in NAM member companies belonged to the society.

Although the resolution was adopted in September, it was not publicized, since the matter was not in the news at the time, Sligh said.

The resolution:

"NAM believes completely in the loyalty and integrity of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and further believes he courageously and forthrightly has guided the foreign and domestic policies of the United States in the direction in which in his judgment the best interests of this country lie..."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-1-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR PICK WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

PART 1 PAGE 4

COL 1-2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

100-59001 274

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

JS7

4/10/61

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-59001)
RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
SECURITY MATTER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/VM

On 4/1/61

California. advised in confidence that

b6
b7C
b7D

b6
b7C
b7D

The Freedom Club and SBCLC are off-campus student groups.
The former is reportedly extremely conservative and latter is
interested in abolishing HCUA and has similar liberal aims.

b6
b7C
b7D

3 - Bureau
1 - Los Angeles
TMT:mgj
(4)

SEARCHED —
INDEXED —
SERIALIZED 4/1
FILED 1/1

100-59001-275

LA 100-59001

b6
b7C
b7D

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7D

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7D

Source [REDACTED] advised his information
furnished FBI [REDACTED] but requested facts
re [REDACTED] be
treated in confidence.

Source previously advised that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJAOM

cc - Bureau
4/11/61
Koy

100-59001-276

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Redacted Box] *PM*

b6

b7C

Conniff Critics Send Protest Wire to FBI

Murray C. Beebe Jr., of 1111 Spur Lane, Rolling Hills, took exception to last Saturday's Examiner article by Frank Conniff, national editor of The Hearst Newspapers, in which Conniff expressed his opinion of the John Birch Society.

The article said "This reporter happens to know the FBI has taken a dim view of the John Birch Society for quite some time now and has its agents in the proper places to maintain surveillance over its activities."

Conniff also said "FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's timely warning that 'vigilante action' by irresponsible organizations can do more harm than good in combatting communism in America should put a crimp in the burgeoning activities of the John Birch Society."

Conniff did not associate Hoover with his (Conniff's) comment: "From what one can learn of the inner structure of the John Birch outfit, its table of organization resembles nothing so much as the prospectus of the Ku Klux Klan . . . in the 1920's" and "eventually will reveal itself as an anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic movement."

As a result, Mr. and Mrs. Beebe sent the following telegram to Hoover:

"The Los Angeles Examiner in banner headlines has implied that you have branded the John Birch Society as anti-American, anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic. It says you have taken dim view of the society and have it under surveillance. Having been strong believers in your patriotism and Americanism in the past, we deplore any such alleged

attack by you upon the only patriotic force which can now prevent Communist destruction of this nation. We hope you will make clear statement of your position.

Murray & Marion Beebe"

Hoover replied:

"The wire of April one from Mrs. Beebe and you received.

The FBI is investigative agency of the Federal Government and does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. Consequently neither myself nor any representative of this bureau could have made statement to which you have referred.

John Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of
Investigation."

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4/8/61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR: HAROLD L. S. AND

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJAAM

CC - Bureau
4/11/61
LW

100-59601-277

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Redacted Box]

b6

b7C

'I WAS A LEADER
IN BIRCH SOCIETY'

'Front' Lines --How Battle Is Fought

David Arnold, 18, revealed Friday that for two months he had been active in the John Birch Society campus chapter at the University of California at Santa Barbara, while conducting an anti-Birch campaign under pseudonym "Publius." Arnold was leader of the Birch group. This is the second exclusive article in which Arnold describes secret operations of the Birch Society and its front movement, the Santa Barbara Freedom Club.

By DAVID ARNOLD
As Told to James Peck

(Copyright, 1961, by The Los Angeles Examiner)

SANTA BARBARA—"We would organize fronts—little fronts, big fronts, temporary fronts, permanent fronts, all kinds of fronts."

That's a Bible quote to a Bircher. It's from the Blue Book, and the fly page reads "Copyright, 1959.

by Robert Welch."

No one is more aware than Welch that the front movement is a favorite Communist technique. He says a little farther on in the Blue Book: "We can stop letting the Communists have the whole effective use of this weapon (the front technique) practically by default, and, what's more, we can use the noise and turmoil to help wake up a lot of people..."

As late as last Saturday night, after The Sunday Examiner was already on the stands with its documentary evidence to the contrary, the president of the Santa Barbara Freedom Club denied there was any connection between his organization and the John Birch Society.

This is a part of standard front-movement procedure.

It is perfectly true the Freedom Club president is not a member of the Birch Society. He resigned about a month ago when it was decided he could serve John Birch better by severing his official relationship. But as far as I know he has yet to miss a secret meeting of the Birch Society and is still active in their affairs.

His actions were in accordance with the instructions of our area coordinator, Chet Merriam, who had told us on many occasions: Deny everything, make counter charges, and

4-10-61
WARDEN WICKARD

if this front folds we'll start another.

How do you start a front?

The first thing is to find a legitimate organization—or at least one that sounds legitimate. You could start one of your own, of course, but that's more complicated.

The Santa Barbara Birchmen, as it happens, chose a conservative youth group which had been formed last fall at Sharon, Conn. Like any other organization whose mission is to sway public opinion, Young Americans for Freedom was quite pleased to receive this letter, a signed copy of which is before me:

"Myself and now a sizable group of conservative students at the University of California at Santa Barbara, have for some time been discussing the trend of liberalism and the progress of the Communist conspiracy in the United States.

"Having heard of your organization and the work it is doing in colleges, we should be grateful if you could send us information on how we can set up a branch of Young Americans for Freedom here in Santa Barbara."

It was signed by the then leader of the campus John Birch chapter.

Once you have the banner of another, more reputable organization, you are ready to recruit, and you can make people listen who would not listen in the name of your own outfit.

This was why the Birchers set up the Santa Barbara Freedom Club.

They hoped both to disseminate John Birch ideology through it and to enlist its more promising members into Birch. (I, incidentally, turned out to be one of the more promising ones.)

Since the entire chapter of the Birch Society immediately joined the Freedom Club, it was not too difficult to retain control. All the offices were filled by JB people.

The thing our John Birch coordinator stressed most was the need for absolute secrecy about the link between the two organizations. We even discussed the possibility of having the Freedom Club attack the Birch Society.

Our goals were the college campuses and high schools in the Santa Barbara area. For a while we considered setting up as an official campus club at the university, but decided against it for fear the administration would exert too much control over us, so we met in town.

With the Freedom Club name we had access both to the campus paper and the paper in town. We had abundant literature from the national headquarters.

Our coordinator—I don't know how — got hold of a mailing list for a Santa Barbara high school. The envelopes were stuffed, stamped and stored at the American Opinion Library in town, headquarters of the Birch Society. I was given the job of addressing them.

It was a very convenient assignment for me, since I was able to use the mailing list to send out counter propaganda from "Publius," an anti-Birch group I had secretly organized.

The package included a king-size flyer with the big, black headline: "Will you be free to celebrate Christmas in the future?" above a lengthy transcript of some testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities about the dangers of communism.

The packet was the kind of presentation which might well have succeeded in bringing in many members.

It failed because the true relationship of the Freedom Club and the John Birch Society was made known to the recipients of the package.

The one thing a front movement — any front movement — cannot survive is the truth.

100-4-10-61
100-4-10-61
E. APPROEN WOODARD
100-4-10-61

News-Press Staff Writer

A freshman at the University of California at Santa Barbara publicly resigned today from his roles as leader of the UCSB campus chapter of the John Birch Society and as vice president of the Freedom Club.

He charged that the Freedom Club is a John Birch front organization which has sought members on the UCSB campus and is now seeking members in Santa Barbara high schools.

He joined it to expose the John Birch front activity, he said.

The freshman, David Arnold, 18, a political science major from San Leandro, revealed his masquerade in a story published in today's El Gaucho, student newspaper at UCSB.

Arnold said that he—aided by four freshman friends—has been acting as a John Birch member for several weeks.

PUBLIUS ROLE

In his roles as John Birch member and Freedom Club member he met top members of the John Birch Society in Santa Barbara.

While he was doing so, he and his four freshman friends harried the John Birch Society - Freedom Club members at UCSB by placing letters on campus bulletin boards and in El Gaucho, suggesting the secret connection between the two organizations.

They borrowed the pseudonym, Publius—the one used by James Madison, John Jay and Alexander Hamilton in writing the Federalist Papers, essays urging ratification of the United States Constitution.

At one point, Arnold and his friends even sent a telegram to a local motel where a John Birch campus group meeting was being held — with Arnold attending — to let the group know that "Publius" knew the meeting was being held, and where.

Leaving that meeting, with Arnold in the car, they drove around a highway cloverleaf to make sure Publius was not following, Arnold said.

The attacks by Publius caused John Birch - Freedom Club members to begin switching officerships in order to avoid exposure of their front activity and the switching left open the job of leader of the John Birch Society chapter on the campus.

Arnold was given the job of leader a week ago today by Chet Merriam, 26, who lives at the San Marcos Trout Club. Arnold said that Merriam claims to be a paid organizer for the John Birch Society, hired by Robert Welch to work among young people in California.



CHET MERRIAM
Freedom Club Organizer

Santa Barbara News-Press
4/7/61
Thomas M. Storke
Editor
Los Angeles Office
100-59001

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SPV-BJA/JM

cc - Bureau 4/11/61
LWJ

100-59001-278

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

pn

b6

b7C

LED ACTIVITIES

It was Merriam, Arnold said, who led the activities of the Freedom Club front and the campus John Birch Society.

It was through Merriam, Arnold said, that he was invited to attend the first general meeting of the John Birch Society in Santa Barbara on March 3 at the home of an officer of the Santa Barbara Birch chapter.

At that meeting, Merriam told him there were 110 John Birch Society members in Santa Barbara, but only about 80 attended, Arnold said.

Arnold said that he has no information that a similar relationship exists between the Birch Society and any other Freedom Club.

It was Merriam, Arnold said, who supplied him with

See UCSB, Page A-8

the John Birch Society forms and instructions and other materials he would need as a chapter leader.

His letter of resignation, published by El Gaucho today, was typed on a form headed "The John Birch Society," given him, Arnold said, to write reports of meetings.

This will be his first and last report. He is sending a copy of it, as instructed at the bottom of the form, to Robert Welch at the national office of the John Birch Society, Arnold said in the letter.

The rest of Publius seconded his resignation, asking that their names be made public, too.

They are Lincoln Kilian, Steve Simon, Jack Forem and Robert Martin.

Arnold said that as he leaves the Freedom Club, it has—despite mailing and other distribution of literature—



DAVID ARNOLD
Discloses Dual Role

campus.

NINE MEMBERS

Nine of these, not counting himself, are John Birch Society members, Arnold said. And the campus chapter roster given him by his predecessor contains only nine names—compared to a UCSB enrollment of 3,200, Arnold noted.

Merriam was aided in his organization activities by David J. Holcomb, president of the Freedom Club, Arnold said.

In his most recent conversations with Merriam, Arnold said, Merriam—concerned about exposure of the Freedom Club—told him that it didn't matter because he would set up new front organizations.

Merriam told him that he, too, could train to be a John Birch Society organizer during the summer months if he wanted to, Arnold said.

In his letter of resignation, written with apparent facetiousness, Arnold said in part:

"Mr. Chet Merriam, My Coordinator, Santa Barbara—I am afraid I must resign my positions as vice president of the Freedom Club and leader of the secret chapter of the UCSB campus John Birch Society.

"With all these meetings at motels and so forth, I have not been eating properly, and have not kept in training for track meets. I have been neglecting my school work, also. . . ."

"Being Publius has taken a lot of time, too."

MINUTES PUBLISHED

In addition to publishing the copy of Arnold's resignation, El Gaucho published a photo-

Santa Barbara News-Press

4/7/61

Thomas M. Storke

Editor

Los Angeles Office

100-59001

Graph of minutes of a meeting of John Birch and Freedom Club members.

In the words of the secretary, this is in part, what occurred at that Feb. 22 meeting:

"In March, Robert Welch to partake in debate with anyone on left-wing side. . . . This shall be important point of attack against opponents, who are making it difficult to obtain members for the John Birch Society.

"A further point of attack shall be subtle movements in objectives and use of the Freedom Club so that attention shall not be focused on the actual Society.

"Suggestion to have every two weeks, perhaps, tape meetings at someone's house. Tapes to be followed by question-answer period. The name of the John Birch Society not to be mentioned. . . ."

El Gaucho also republished a letter to the editor it had first published March 7, signed by David J. Holcomb, in which he said, ". . . this club is in no way connected with the controversial John Birch Society. . . ."

El Gaucho also published a photostat of a John Birch Society report form like that used by Arnold in his letter of resignation.

The report, written and

signed by the then leader of the campus John Birch chapter, included the words, "It was decided to soft peddle the societies activities and concentrate on the Freedom Club."

The chapter leader also named the Freedom Club officers in the report, a copy of which was supposed to be mailed to the national office of the John Birch Society.

Both Merriam and Holcomb told editors and a reporter of the News-Press—when they visited the newspaper to report the Publius attacks on the campus and to request a story about them—that there was no connection between the

John Birch Society and the Freedom Club. (They were invited at the time to submit a statement for publication, but have not done so.)

Arnold said today that "probably even without Publius, the John Birch Society and Freedom Club would have faded out anyway. But I think Publius was useful in showing how groups like this function."

He added, "I don't want the extremists on the other side to take this as supporting their claims that there is no Communist threat, and that there is no need to fight it. There is. The Communist threat is no ghost."

Santa Barbara News-Press

4/7/61

Thomas M. Storke

Editor

Los Angeles Office

100-59001



Santa Barbara News-Press
4/7/61
Thomas M. Storke
Editor
Los Angeles Office
100-59001

THESE FIVE FRESHMEN at UCSB — called, collectively, by the name, Publius — smile as they end a masquerade of several weeks. They “infiltrated” the campus John Birch Society and the Freedom Club, an organization which is a John Birch front, they said today. From left are Jack Forem, Robert Martin, David Arnold — who resigned today as the campus John Birch leader — Steve Simon and Lincoln Kilian.

— News-Press photo

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/107

Birch Unit Reported Disbanded

SANTA BARBARA — The president of the Santa Barbara Freedom Club, under fire recently as a front group for the John Birch Society on the University of California campus here, said Monday night the campus Birch chapter has been disbanded.

David Holcomb, 30, spoke to more than 200 students in an appearance scheduled before the disclosure in The Los Angeles Examiner last Friday that a member of both the Freedom Club and the Birch Society had been collecting evidence for two months showing the connection between the organizations.

The undercover Birchman, David Arnold, 18, was present at Monday night's meeting. He heard Holcomb confirm many of his charges regarding the Freedom Club-Birch combine and expressed resentment at being overridden in his position as Freedom Club president by Chet Merriam, area youth coordinator for the Birch Society.

Holcomb insisted, however, that although they were closely connected, his club was not a "front" for the Birchers.

Holcomb said Merriam, who like nine others of the Freedom Club's 15 members, is a member of the John Birch Society, had resigned from the Freedom Club at Holcomb's request. Holcomb said there is now absolutely no connection between the two organizations.

Shortly after this, Holcomb was asked whether he felt he would receive fair treatment in the press on his speech.

"I think so," he answered. "We have our own tape recorder here just to make sure."

He was then asked to read the label showing ownership of the recorder to the audience.

The label read: "Property of the John Birch Society, 132 E. Canon Perdido, Santa Barbara, California."

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER
DATE 4-11-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR Warden Wedelard
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

cc - Bureau 4/11/61
Jlf

b6

b7C

100-59061-279

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

'Duped by Reds,' Says Rousselot

Cal. Solon Tells How He Was Fooled by Commies

WASHINGTON, April 11 (UPI)—Rep. John H. Rousselot, Republican of California, solemnly raised his right hand as if taking an oath.

"I've been a Communist dupe," he declared.

"Yes, you can quote me," he added. "I'm willing to stand up before the American people and say I've been deceived by the Communists."

Rousselot, a member of the John Birch Society, stoutly defended the society and its leader, Robert Welch. He said in an interview yesterday the organization fought communism by "informing the American people as to the true nature of the Communist conspiracy."

The young California Congressman went on to give examples of how he had been "duped by the Communists."

"When I was in college, I was told by my professors, by my textbooks and by the press that Mao Tse-Tung was a peasant reformer, that all he wanted to do was to free the Chinese worker," he said.

"But Mao has executed over 20 million Chinese people. He turned out to be one of the deceitful men of the Communist conspiracy."

"Here's another example of how I was taken in by the press, radio and television coverage of another agrarian reformer—Fidel Castro:

Ed Sullivan Fooled

"Ed Sullivan stood up on his program and put his arm around Fidel and said 'I want you to meet the George Washington of Cuba.' Again I was taken in. I was deceived."

"Does this mean that Sullivan was a Communist?" Rousselot asked rhetorically.

"No," he said with an emphatic shake of his head.

"Sullivan was deceived too. We both were dupes."

Rousselot defended Welch as a "farseeing, fine man" whom the Communists have not been able to deceive.

But how does Rousselot know that he is not being deceived by Welch?

Rousselot answers:

"I know this man. I suppose he's made mistakes—we all do. But basically he's been right. I don't agree entirely with him, but he should have a chance to be heard."

The California Republican went on to say that an investigation of Welch and the society should be made by the Senate Internal Security Committee.

"I think a full and complete investigation is necessary to remove a cloud of doubt that has been placed over this organization somewhat unfairly," he said.

LOS ANGELES EVENING
HERALD EXPRESS
DATE 4-11-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR HERBERT H. KRAUCH
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

100-59001-280

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

67

b6

b7C

Defends Birch Group

Rousselot said it was true that some members of the society had made "irresponsible" charges.

"But that doesn't mean that the society is totally bad," he said.

"It's wrong to accuse another person of being a Communist without reasonable documentation," he said, adding that it was not always possible to find full documentation because of the "deceitful nature" of Communism."

However, he said, John Birch members were "people of integrity" who feel they have "the responsibility for exposing the Communist conspiracy in a positive way by speaking up."

Hits Congressmen

Governor Scores Birchites

SACRAMENTO, April 11 (AP)—Governor Brown spoke out today against two California congressmen who admitted joining the right-wing John Birch Society.

He said Reps. Edgar W. Hiestand of Altadena and John H. Rousselot of San Gabriel, both Republicans, showed a lack of judgment in becoming members of the group.

Brown characterized the John Birch Society as "one of those groups like the Ku Klux Klan that comes along from time to time and appeals to the paranoid in people."

AGAINST AMENDMENT

To a news conference attended by visiting members of Sigma Delta Chi, journalism society, the governor gave these other answers to a wide range of questions:

PRIVILEGE—He'll sign any reasonable bill to extend to radio and television reporters the same privilege now accorded newspapermen.

But he's opposed to amendments proposed by Sen. Guho Fisher, Democrat of San Diego, that would require newsmen to disclose their sources of information if requested by a court.

"I do not favor ~~watering down of~~ newspaper privilege," the governor said.

NARCOTICS—Brown said he would sign the Regan-Dills narcotics bill even if it came to him in its present form.

The bill, as approved by the Senate, would increase penalties as urged by the governor but it would forbid probation to first offenders convicted of selling hard narcotics to a minor.

The governor favors continuing the discretionary power of judges to grant probation in all first offense cases. But he said he would sign the bill with the no-probation feature.

"I hold no brief for anyone who sells narcotics to a minor," he said.

DEATH PENALTY—Expressed hope that bills to abolish capital punishment or halt it for a trial period reach his desk for his signature.

His experience as a district attorney, attorney general and governor, he said, convinced him that "the death ~~penalty~~ increases homicide rather than deters it."

LOS ANGELES EVENING
HERALD-EXPRESS
DATE 4-11-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR HERBERT H. KRAUCH
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

b6

b7C

100-89001-281

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

57

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE _____ BY _____

Speech of Birch Chief Here to Be Televised

Shrine Auditorium Sold Out for Tonight's
Address; Channel 11 to Carry Tape Version

With Shrine Auditorium leader has developed in re-sold out long ago for to- night's address by Robert Welch, head of the John Birch Society, arrangements have been made to televise the event on video tape.

The talk will be recorded and will be shown in its entirety beginning at 10:30 p.m. on KTTV (11).

Welch is scheduled to speak before a capacity crowd of more than 6,000 at 8 p.m. His subject will be, "Through All the Days to Be."

Church Sponsorship

His appearance is sponsored by the Freedom Club of the First Congregational Church.

Welch, retired candy manufacturer of Belmont, Mass., founded the militantly anti-Communist organization in December, 1958, and it has spread throughout the nation.

Bitter controversy over the society's methods and charges of widespread Communist influences in this country made by members or their

leader has developed in recent months.

Welch also will address society members of the Santa Barbara area Wednesday night in the auditorium of the San Marcos High School.

Former Counterspy Endorses Society

SAN DIEGO (UPI)—Matt Cvetic, former American counterspy in Communist organizations, has endorsed the controversial John Birch Society.

"I have met many John Birchers," said Cvetic. "Their aim is to preserve the American way of life. With the Reds in control of Cuba, 90 miles from our shores, it is high time some Americans became concerned."

Cvetic made these remarks after disclosing he sent a telegram to State Sen. Hugh M. Burns (D-Fresno).

The telegram criticized the California Democratic Council and urged Burns to find out how the Kremlin's party line became part of the council's platform."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-11-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Nick B. Williams

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/AM

b6

b7C

100-59001-282

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

'I WAS A LEADER IN THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY'

Birch Group Says It Could 'Save U.S.'

By DAVID ARNOLD

As Told to James Peck

Each member had to be personally contacted if we wanted to hold a meeting. There were no bulletin boards. No regular meeting time. No regular meeting place.

On the telephone we talked in guarded terms, tried to avoid mentioning names, places or times. We took precautions against being followed on the way to and leaving meetings. We were always on the watch for electronic listening devices, infiltrators (a not-unrealistic fear, as it turned out) and spies.

We generally met in motel rooms.

The meetings were usually informal and, although the coordinator was definitely in charge, fairly democratic. Everyone was allowed to say anything he wished.

The main purpose of the meetings was to indoctrinate us with a terrible fear of communism and to endow us with the belief that only the Birch Society could save America.

Our job was to save the "dupes" from themselves.

Here is a resume of one particular meeting.

The coordinator was upset. "Publius" had struck again and the Birch-Freedom Club was getting shaky. One exchange I remember particularly well:

Perhaps a little maliciously, I asked him if it wouldn't be pretty disastrous if they found out he was a paid coordinator for the Birch Society.

"Yes, he answered, it would. 'But they can't. There's no chance.' (I had difficulty suppressing a grin.)

I asked him how we were going to fight back against "Publius." Smear them in turn, he said. "Let's put THEM on the defensive and make ourselves the hero in this thing."

He was warming to the subject now. It was all a plot by the Communist Conspiracy, directed by the university clique.

"...these radicals who've been on our college payrolls for 20 or 30 years and working against the United States. They're going to find out we can be just as clever and just as crafty as they are.

"There's definitely a cell out there and we think we know some of the guys in it. 'I've given some names (of teachers) to the FBI.

"This directive (to expose the Freedom Club) came down from Moscow. Khrushchev ordered that."

We, he told us, are number one on their list. "All anti-Communists are to be destroyed by the end of 1961."

The catechism of hate and fear continued. He compared us to the early Christian martyrs. He called us apostles in the battle for the American mind.

"It may be too late to do anything," he warned us. "But at least we'll put a scare into them in the last few months of our existence."

The end, it seemed, was near! "Take my word for this. We're in the last stages of the Communist takeover."

There was only one hope for Americans: The John Birch Society.

"I don't know the details of this but I do know an underground organization is being set up over the United States. It is being made up of Americanists. We will be the ones who stir up armed resistance."

Weapons are being stockpiled for us, he said.

"When the time comes to go underground you'll be notified. The FBI, military leaders and top politicians are in on it. But don't say this to anybody."

"J. Edgar Hoover is on our side," he assured us. "He's one of the few men in government who is."

He embroidered on his theme of impending doom:

"I know people in this community who are building hideouts in remote areas of the country. And the underground is preparing places for us in the country. We'll be notified. When the takeover begins we'll just disappear."

And so it would go. No disaster was too remote to predict. No public official above attack. The Communists were behind every tree, and only we Birchers were perspicacious enough and courageous enough to oppose them.

The things he had told us were incredible, unsupported by any real evidence in the world outside that stuffy little motel room.

I suppose they should have been amusing — but they weren't.

Because, you see, they were believed.

David Arnold, political science student at the University of California-Santa Barbara, last Friday revealed a two-month masquerade as a member of the campus chapter of the John Birch Society. Arnold became the leader of the chapter and vice president of its front group, the Freedom Club. During the same period he organized "Publius," an anti-Birch group of students who worked with information Arnold supplied them to counteract the influence of the Birchers. This is the third in a series of exclusive articles on Arnold's experiences.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-KST/101

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-11-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR WARDEN WOOLARD

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

CC- Roman 4/11/61
JW

100-59001-283

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

pm

b6

b7C

FBI

Date: April 14, 1961

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

To: SAC, Los Angeles (100-59001)

From: Director, FBI (62-104401)

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)Re Los Angeles airtel 4/10/61 captioned "John
Birch Society, Security Matter."Careful review of the information furnished in
reairtel indicates that the FBI does not have any jurisdiction
in this matter. You are instructed to contact [REDACTED][REDACTED] and make
certain that they clearly understand there is no FBI jurisdiction
and that the FBI will not become involved in this situation.You should promptly advise the Bureau concerning any
pertinent information developed as the result of your contact
with [REDACTED] and any other information
received concerning this matter.ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/AM

b6

b7C

100-59001-284
SEARCHED [initials]
SERIALIZED [initials]
J APR 16
FBI - LOS ANGELES
W/F
[initials]Sent Via _____
Handle
2
Sensory 275

Birch 'No Hero,' Brought Own Death, Buddies Say

Two former Army officers today joined a Billings (Mont.) radio executive in declaring that John Birch "was responsible for his own death."

Birch was killed by Chinese Communists shortly after the end of World War II. A controversial right-wing group has been named after him.

GUSTAV J. Krause, of 1970 Kinclair Dr., Pasadena, said Birch was killed because "he tried to force his way out of a situation instead of being diplomatic."

William P. Weiss Jr., of 1600 W Siwanoy Dr., Alhambra, said Birch "unfortunately wasn't as skilled as he should have been."

Their statements corroborated an explanation of Birch's death Sunday by Joseph Sample, president of stations KOOK and KOOK-TV, Billings.

Sample, who served in the same Office of Strategic Services detachment as Birch,

Rep. Edgar Hiestand (R-Altaadena) will be a featured speaker at a "convention of conservatives" in Chicago April 13-15. Hiestand recently admitted membership in the John Birch Society and has attacked criticism of its founder, retired candy-maker Robert Welch.

said Birch was no hero, did not die in glory and "his brash manners probably led to his death."

HE SAID Birch led a mission into central China in August, 1945, and bumped into a force of Chinese Reds.

"Birch chose to attempt to bluff his way out of a difficult situation," said Sample. "Harsh words led to insults and insults to arrogance. Finally, in a fit of rage, the Red leader shot Birch."

"News of his death created a sensation at OSS headquarters, primarily because of the irony of his being killed after the war was over."

Krause and Weiss had prepared the mission that ended in Birch's slaying.

"BIRCH was a real fine gentleman," said Krause, now a manufacturer. "But, being a son of a missionary family and having grown up among the Chinese, he was pretty forward and spoke harshly with the Chinese."

"The Chinese Communists would fire at the drop of a handkerchief. Because of Birch's background and his long life in China, he threw his weight around."

"HE WAS the type of fellow who was not a military man but was recruited because of his language ability. He tried to force his way out of a situation instead of being diplomatic."

Krause said Birch's body was hacked with knives. He said he had photos to verify his official report.

"There were many men who gave their lives—thousands of Americans who were much greater heroes," Krause said.

WEISS, a stock broker and reserve officer, who was assistant to Krause, said:

"Certainly John was just as much a hero as any other American soldier who died for his country. He was the first American martyred by the Communists. He was the unfortunate victim of particular circumstances."

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 4-3-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR ARTHUR LARO

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

b6

b7C

100-59001-285

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 3 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Handwritten signature]

Birch's 'Hero Death' Stirs New Controversy

Two Ex-Army Intelligence Officers Recall
Circumstances of His Slaying in China

Did John Birch, the namesake of the controversial conservative society, die a hero's death or was he the unwitting victim of his own lack of experience and bravado?

This moot question was raised in Los Angeles Sunday night as two former Army intelligence officers, once connected with Birch, recalled the circumstances of his death in North China more than 15 years ago.

Called 'Forward'

Gustav J. Krause, Los Angeles manufacturer and former OSS officer who prepared the mission on which Birch was killed, reluctantly said that Birch "was responsible for his own death."

Krause, who lives at 1970 Kinclair Dr., Pasadena, said: "Birch was a real fine gentleman, but being a son of a missionary family and having grown up among the

Chinese, he was pretty forward and spoke harshly with the Chinese."

But Reserve Lt. Col. William P. Weiss Jr., of 1600 W. Siwanoy Dr., a Los Angeles stock broker, declared:

"Certainly John was just as much a hero as any other American soldier who died for his country.

"Unfortunately, he wasn't as skilled as he should have been. But he certainly is just as much a hero as he died for his country in trying conditions..."

Bluff Recalled

Krause and Weiss, both OSS officers in Hsian in North China at the time of Birch's death, were contacted by The Times, following statements made by

Joseph Sample, president of Kook and Kook-TV at Billings, Mont.

Sample, who had served in the same outfit with Birch,

said, "There was no real object lesson in Birch's death, and certainly no glory."

All three men were in agreement that Birch was killed when he tried to bluff his way out of a situation. Both Weiss and Krause attributed this to inexperience.

"He tried to force his way out of a situation instead of being diplomatic," said Krause.

Killed on Mission

Birch was killed by Chinese Communists Aug. 25, 1945, while on a mission in Central China as head of a small team. He was killed after engaging in an argument with the leader of a group of Chinese Reds, Sample said.

Krause said the OSS groups operating in China had to operate with either Communist or Nationalist forces, whichever they might encounter.

"The Chinese Communists would fire at the drop of a handkerchief," Krause said, adding, "Because of Birch's background and his long life in China, he threw his weight around."

"He was the type of fellow who was not a military man but was recruited because of his language ability," he added.

Krause said Birch's body was hacked with knives and said he had photos to verify his official report at the time. Krause, who was base commander for the OSS at

Hsian at the time, said Birch's mission was to make a reconnaissance to determine how far south the Communists had moved from the Great Wall of China.

Weiss, then a captain and assistant to Krause, prepared Birch's mission.

Birch's mission followed the arrival at Hsian of Gen. William Donovan, head of the OSS, and Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, commander of U.S. forces in China.

In recounting the incident, Krause said:

"There were many men who gave their lives — thousands of Americans who were much greater heroes. But Birch operated on the fact he knew the Chinese language and had lived in China."

Said Weiss: "John Birch was the first American martyred by the Communists. He was the unfortunate victim of particular circumstances."

The John Birch Society, under fire for its ultraconservative activities against communism, was named after the missionary turned intelligence officer.

Neither Weiss nor Krause belongs to the John Birch Society.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BSA/ST

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-3-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Nick B. Williams

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

John Birch Society

cc Bureau

4/3/61

LW

100-59001-286

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1 APR 3 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

b6

b7C

PAUL H. TALBERT
EDGAR H. DONALDSON, C.P.C.U.
SERGE R. BALLIF, C.P.C.U.

LOS ANGELES PHONE
BRADSHAW 2-3451
BEVERLY HILLS PHONE
CRESTVIEW 6-6175

PAUL H. TALBERT COMPANY
INSURANCE

9380 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

CABLE ADDRESS: TALSURANCE

MAIL ADDRESS
P. O. BOX 591
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.

April 2, 1961

The Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
F.B.I.
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Please refer to the enclosed article of Frank Conniff in the Saturday issue, April 1, on the front page.

I, Paul H. ("Tex") Talbert, business address above and home address, 12431 Mulholland Drive, Beverly Hills, do humbly and respectfully request answers to the following questions:

1. In the first paragraph, where and what date did you use the phrase, "Vigilante action"? Was it used in any way directly or indirectly in connection with or directed towards the activities of the John Birch Society?
2. Please refer to the third paragraph. How can this reporter (Frank Conniff) know that the FBI takes a dim view of the John Birch Society and has its agents maintaining surveillance over its activities?
3. In the next two paragraphs, what right (under the freedom of the Press) does any responsible editor of any responsible newspaper have, to make charges that the inner structure of the John Birch Society represent the prospectus of the Ku Klux Klan?

In the same connection, how can it take for granted that it will eventually reveal itself as anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic?

4. If you will kindly turn the page and note the headline, "BIRCH: CALLED ANTI-CATHOLIC, ANTI-SEMITIC."

Is this not some sort of tactic referred to in "Masters of Deceit" where one can take a prediction, turn it into an assumption, and then turn the page and state it as a fact?

NOTE: At this moment (1:00 p.m.), I went over to a leading restaurant to get a bite to eat, and a very nice lady who is in business, by the name of [redacted] said to me that she had just come from church (Catholic Church). She said, "Everyone around here is talking about you, but I will say I know most everyone is standing firm by you. Do you know that a lady just asked me, after church the question, 'Did you know that J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI had called the John Birch Society anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic?'"

b6

b7C

100-59001-287

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 6 - 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

DM

The Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
April 2, 1961
Page Two

Now, 2:00 p.m., I continue.

Mr. Hoover, I and thousands of other loyal Americans seek your help, courage, and advice.

Former Congressman Donald L. Jackson will come with me to see you, or he will help us in a quiet way to get a hearing before the HUAC.

We definitely feel that we are entitled to a hearing before some duly authorized investigative body of the Government so that we can clear these charges.

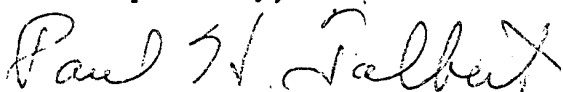
The local Press and politicians have been most vicious in their attacks. You can get the idea from the Thermo-Fax copy of the "Herald Express" of March 30. Also enclosing a copy of this morning's edition of the Sunday "Examiner," setting forth Mr. Welch's telegram.

Note the article of Saturday, April 1, was on the front page with a big headline, whereas this morning (Sunday), on Page 9, they quoted the text of Mr. Welch's telegram to Senator Eastland. This in itself gives an answer to many of the "smears," but note that they not only put in an obscure section of the paper, but used type of the same size that might appear in a patent medicine advertisement.

Will be most grateful to receive an early answer.

Kindest regards to you and hope we both survive this war which you have so aptly stated we are losing.

Yours respectfully,



Paul H. Talbert
PHT:mc
encs.

P.S. I will not pass this around or disclose your answer without your permission. Please, I am not indicating that you give us a plug or a "pat on the back". I merely hope to get answers to specific questions.

*Paul H. Talbert
100-16786-587
100-16786-630/31
87-805-3*

April 5, 1961

PERSONAL

Mr. Paul H. Talbert
Post Office Box 591
Beverly Hills, California

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/SM

Dear Mr. Talbert:

I have received your letter of April 2, with enclosures, and do appreciate the interest which prompted your communication.

In connection with the matter you discussed, may I point out to you that the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. Further, information in this Bureau's files must be maintained as confidential and available for official use only pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice. In light of the foregoing, I can assure you that neither I nor any representative of the FBI has made any statements or recommendations about the organization you mentioned.

Please accept my thanks for bringing the material you enclosed to my attention and for your generous comments. I am enclosing one of my statements which you may like to read.

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Hoover

100-59001-288

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 6 - 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	
ASAC	Wm

b6

b7C

1 - Los Angeles - Enclosure
Enclosure

Birch Views Reported Urged on Army Troops

Commander of 24th Division Sets Up Anti-Red Program in Europe, Paper Says

© 1961 New York Times News Service

BONN—The commanding general of an American Army division in Europe has been urging the views of the ultra-conservative John Birch Society on his troops for the last six months.

The Overseas Weekly, an independent newspaper that is distributed among American troops in Europe, published Thursday a detailed account of a special indoctrination program instituted by Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker of the 24th Infantry Division last October.

Gen. Walker was recently promoted to command the 8th Corps in Austin, Tex., starting in August.

Office Established

A high-ranking officer of the U.S. 7th Army, of which the 24th Division is a part, said the newspaper's account was "reasonably correct." The account was as follows:

A "special warfare" office was established within the division last Oct. 15 to conduct a "pro-blue" campaign designed, in Gen. Walker's words, to give a "new and vital approach toward anti-communism... a positive approach toward the defeat of open communist subversion of the American way of life."

(The name of the Birch Society's basic book of principles is the "Blue Book.")

Books Distributed

Gen. Walker said at the meeting at which the program was launched that

"communism has infiltrated every institution in the United States in an attempt to overthrow our way of life."

Copies of "The Life of John Birch," a book by Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass., the society's founder, were distributed to the division's company and battery day-rooms. Copies of the society's magazine, American Opinion, were put on sale on Army newsstands in the Augsburg area, where the division is stationed, and the division's weekly paper, Taro Leaf, published at least one article from the magazine.

The article said that democracy degenerates into "mobocracy" and concluded that the United States is "a republic, not a democracy. Let's keep it that way."

Before the special program got under way, Walker, according to the Overseas Weekly, addressed 200 members of a Parent-Teachers Assn. connected with the division.

He was said to have described as "definitely pink" former President Truman, Dean Acheson, a former secretary of state, and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Edward R. Murrow, director of the U.S. Information Agency, Walter Lippmann, the newspaper columnist, and Eric Sevareid, a commentator for the Columbia Broadcasting System, were, he said, more than 'definitely pink.'

Defends Statement

a meeting of the division officers at the inauguration of the pro-blue program. Walker was said to

by the division's public information officer, Capt. Richard G. Hyde, that 60% of all Americans are "Communist influenced."

Among the speakers invited to address the division under Gen. Walker's sponsorship have been Edward C. Bundy, author of "collectivism in the Churches," and William G. Schlamm, an associate editor of American Opinion who lectured extensively in West Germany and has advocated a "preventive war" against the communists.

Hero of Two Wars

Walker, a much-decorated veteran of World War II and the Korean war, was named commander of the 24th Infantry Division in October, 1959, after serving two years as chief of the Arkansas military district with headquarters at Little Rock. He is 51 years old, a native of Centerville, Tex.

Lt. Gen. Harrison H. Davidson, the 7th Army commander, called Gen. Walker to the Army's Heidelberg headquarters Thursday to discuss the Overseas Weekly's story. A spokesman for Davidson said Walker had been advised to be "candid and complete" in answering reporters' questions about the story.

Late Thursday, 24th Division headquarters in Augsburg said Walker was conferring with his public information officers on a possible statement for the press. In the meantime, no questions were being answered.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
DATE 4-14-61
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EDITOR NICK B. WILLIAMS
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-94 BY SP4-BJA/JM

100-59001-289

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 14 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

95T

b6

b7C

Bircher Leads Parley to Form Third Party

Society Will Play Major Role in Three-Day
'Convention of Conservatives' in Chicago

CHICAGO (UPI)—An organizer for the John Birch Society presided Thursday at the opening of a "Convention of Conservatives" aimed at establishing a third political party.

Kent Courtney of New Orleans, a Birch Society leader who describes himself as a "Taft-McCarthy-MacArthur type of conservative," was the acknowledged leader as 500 declared conservatives opened their three-day meeting.

Groups represented at the meeting included the Trades Policy Committee, the National Apartment Owners Assn. and the National Right-to-Work Committee.

Has Prominent Role

Courtney, who publishes the monthly independent American Forum newspaper, acknowledged that the controversial John Birch Society would play a major role at the meeting. He said one-third of the speakers on his program and many of the delegates were society members.

Courtney said he would like to see the society take an active part in organizing a new conservative party, but said it had no official connection with the Chicago convention.

As an indication of what he had in mind for the party, Courtney said he wanted no part of Sen. Goldwater, the Arizona Republican who is regarded as leader of conservatives in the Senate. Courtney said Goldwater "tainted himself with socialism when he backed Richard Nixon in 1960."

The first speaker on the program, Bryton Barron, of Virginia, prefaced his talk with a lengthy defense of the John Birch Society.

Barron, a co-ordinator for the society, said the recent publicity for the group had

created a rush to join it.

"As an officer of the John Birch Society, I have been overwhelmed with requests for information and requests to join the society," he said.

"I do not recall ever having heard members of any chapter engage in remarks about President Eisenhower of the nature which the slanted press appears to have taken strange delight in circulating," he added.

Under Congress Fire

The society has come under fire on the floor of Congress and elsewhere for its campaign to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren and a statement by its founder, Robert Welch, that Gen. Ei-

senhower was a "conscious, dedicated agent of the Communist Party."

Barron said the society's charges against Warren were made by Warren's own colleagues on the bench.

"Supreme Court justices, in disagreeing with Warren have, we understand, accused Warren of usurping power, of invading the constitutional rights of private citizens, of invading rights constitutionally reserved to the sovereign states, even of giving aid and comfort to the sworn enemies of the United

States," Barron said.

Courtney said he, personally, thought Welch "would make a very good candidate for President in 1964."

"But I don't know that Welch would want to run at his age," Courtney said. If he succeeds in organizing a major third party, he will urge it to nominate J. Bracken Lee, the mayor of Salt Lake City, or Tom Anderson, Nashville, Tenn., publisher, for President in 1964.

"Or, if we can't get anyone better, I'd be glad to run myself," Courtney said.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-14-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK B. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

b6

b7C

100-59001-290

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 14 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

ST

'T WAS A LEADER IN THE BIRCH SOCIETY'

Expose Stirs Up Campus Politics at UCSB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-84 BY SP4-B SM/DM

This is the last of a series of exclusive Examiner articles by David Arnold, University of California Santa Barbara student who spent two months as a member of the campus John Birch Society and its front, the Santa Barbara Freedom Club, while at the same time conducting a counter-movement against the Birchers.

By DAVID ARNOLD as told to JAMES PECK

(Copyright, 1961, by The Los Angeles Examiner)

SANTA BARBARA—A lot has happened since I disclosed my investigation of the UCSB John Birch Society and the Santa Barbara Freedom Club to The Examiner last Friday.

Individuals have been hurt, campus political activity has increased tremendously, I have been attacked both publicly and by mail.

These things have caused me to review carefully my reasons for entering into the investigation and raised the question in my mind as to whether, after all, it was a responsible and worthwhile thing to do.

Certainly I regret any individual suffering which has resulted from my disclosures. Inevitably, I became personally involved with many members of the Birch and Freedom groups. And I freely admit that I have guilty feelings toward them.

I understand that in their eyes I betrayed a trust and that from their point of view they have every reason to despise me.

I consider the notable increase in interest in political issues on the campus very healthy—almost too healthy. And I trust that when the furor dies down a bit a residual of mature involvement in nation and world affairs will remain.

Chancellor Gould has indicated support for the establishment of an open forum on the campus at UCSB, a forum in which controversial issues—bar none—can be discussed by interested persons in an atmosphere of free exchange.

I consider this the ideal American method of dealing with issues and plan to play as active a role in the program as possible.

I won't say the attacks on me have been a pleasant experience but I was prepared for them and the commendations—though fewer than the attacks, so far—more than make up for them.

So there have been both positive and negative effects of the Birch-Freedom Club disclosures.

But, in the final analysis, I arrive at this conclusion: The object of my investigation was to show the direct relationship between two organizations which claimed to be totally unrelated. And which used methods of recruitment I considered basically unAmerican.

That relationship is now, I believe, proved. And I think a much more open and aboveboard situation exists on the UCSB campus.

I therefore believe that the investigations and disclosures were justified

served the cause of American fair play, and that I would have failed in my duty had I done otherwise.

ALREADY I have been accused of pro-Communist leanings. So I would like to say how I feel about communism.

I am certainly deeply aware that a Communist threat exists. I think it exists on two levels: The domestic and the international. Of the two I consider the international threat by far the more serious.

I think there is too much scare talk about the Communists reputedly hiding behind every bush—and too little talk about how we are going to meet the Communist

challenge in Laos in The Congo, in space.

I think the physical dangers of Communist espionage are being handled quite effectively by governmental agencies. And I think that on the level of political action the Communist Party is pretty ineffectual.

I was at the student demonstrations against the House Un-American Activities Committee in San Francisco, -- an official observer for my high school, for instance, and, frankly, I think the Communists got a good deal more credit for it than they deserved.

However, the real internal

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-14-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR WARDEN WOOLARD

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

cc - Bureau
4/14/61

208

b6

b7C

100-59001-291

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>Ward</i>	FILED <i>Ward</i>
APR 14 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

987

~~danger~~ of communism comes from the fear, distrust and hatred it can and does generate. I think it should be fought at this level, not through secret smear campaigns, but in the open American forum.

And it is exactly this generating of fear, distrust and hatred that I object to in the John Birch Society. It is their use of Communist tactics such as the front group, their conviction that their end justifies the means, their seeming willingness to use any method at all to achieve their aims.

I have heard people say that Robert Welch should be put in jail, that his or-

ganization should be outlawed.

I don't agree. In the first place, as far as I know, he hasn't broken any laws. In the second place, I have a feeling that the good sense and democratic convictions of the American people will prevail long after Mr. Welch has passed from the scene.

Bishop Challenges Birch Chief on 'Red' Ministers

Bishop Gerald Kennedy of the Methodist Church Thursday challenged Robert Welch, head of the John Birch Society, to name any of the 734 ministers of the Southern California-Arizona Methodist Conference who are Communists or Communist sympathizers.

Referring to Welch's statement "Protestant ministers do not become Communists, but Communists do become Protestant ministers," Bishop Kennedy said in a telegram to

Welch:

"If you are doing anything more than spreading slander and suspicion, I invite you to meet with the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications of the Conference. . . I would like this board to tell you how we screen all men coming into the ministry and have you explain to us how any Communist could get through that screen.

"I think it is about time you get specific or else admit you really do not know what you are talking about."

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER

DATE 4-14-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR WARREN WOOLARD

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/KM

cc - Bureau 4/14/61
LVL

100-59001-292

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

b6

b7C

Welch Says Kennedy Has Been Soft on Reds

President Less a Captive of Communist Influences Than Eisenhower, He Asserts

BY GENE BLAKE, Times Staff Representative

SANTA BARBARA — President Kennedy appears "less a captive of Communist influences" than Mr. Eisenhower was but the new Chief Executive has been soft on communism in the past, Robert Welch, president of the John Birch Society, said here Thursday night.

The controversial leader of the society made his final public appearance in Southern California in a half-hour program over television station KEYT.

For a time, it looked as though the show would go on without him. Welch, who had heretofore banned interviews by newsmen during his Southland stay, objected to several conditions established for the telecast.

Show Goes On

A compromise was reached, and the show went on as scheduled. Welch got his way in refusing to allow taping of the interview for later showing over national networks. He explained that the society would have no control over such showings, permitting "fragments" to be plucked out and shown.

He gave in and allowed Harry Riesner of CBS and Murray Fromson of NBC to participate in the four-member panel that questioned him.

Regarding the new President, Welch declared:

"Kennedy has done many things considered soft on communism in a political way, such as his speech as a U.S. senator in support of the Communist - controlled Algerian rebels. I was sorry to see anyone in our government take such a stand."

Opposes Third Party

Welch said he opposed efforts such as the present conference in Chicago to form a third party.

"We have no interest in a third party," he said. "I refused to go out to a meeting in Chicago because of the third party overtones to it."

He emphasized, however, that the third party advocates convening in Chicago include many "good people with good purposes."

As a private citizen, Welch declared, he supported Sen. Goldwater (R-Ariz.) for the Presidential nomination. But he said the society has never "taken any position in politics nor intends to take any."

Query on Dues

Queried about the society's dues, Welch said they are \$2 a month for men and \$1 a month for women, with both sexes represented about evenly in the membership.

He refused to single out persons in government he considers Communists or red sympathizers.

"I will not mention names because there has been a gag rule that makes it hard for the Senate Investigating Committee and the House Un-American Activities Committee to operate," he said. "They have not even made an attempt to expose Communists in government for years."

Blames Co-ordinator

He blamed the failure of a Birch Society-sponsored Freedom Club chapter at the University of California branch here on the inexperience of the co-ordinator who was assigned to the unit.

Welch repeated a number of comments which he had made in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara speeches this week.

The program ended when time ran out during a discussion of segregation.

"I am opposed to segregation by force," Welch stated as the show went off the air.

Welch spoke in Los Angeles Tuesday night and repeated the talk here Wednesday night. A video tape recording of his Los Angeles appearance, shown immediately after the talk, will be repeated on Station KTTV (11) at 8 p.m. Sunday.

He is scheduled to fly today to Phoenix, where he

has a speaking engagement tonight. His itinerary then will take him to Dallas, Houston, Shreveport and Tampa.

The liveliest of Welch's appearances in the Southland occurred Wednesday night when he addressed some 1,300 persons who overflowed the San Marcos High School auditorium here.

He delivered the same speech which he had given in Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium the previous night before a capacity crowd of more than 6,000, but found his audience much less friendly.

This was because of a contingent of students from the Santa Barbara campus of the University of California, who reacted to some of Welch's remarks with snickers, hisses, boos and laughter.

Queried in Writing

The climax came during a question-and-answer period when Welch was queried in writing as to why he advocated using "the tactics of the Communists" in fighting communism.

Welch demurred, declaring that the society "cannot accept the principle that the end justifies the means." He said he wished the question-

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 5-8-94 BY SP4-B59/jm

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-14-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NKK B. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

cc - Bureau

4/14/61 JLY

b6

b7C

100-59001-293

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 14 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

er would point out exactly how the society uses Communist tactics.

Charles Porter, 21, a political science senior of Santa Barbara, accepted the invitation by standing up in the audience and identifying himself as the author of the question.

Asked About Fronts

"Do you use front organizations?" he inquired.

"Yes," Welch replied.

"Do you advocate infiltrating the PTAs?" Porter asked.

"Yes," Welch answered.

"Do you advocate distributing anti-Semitic literature?" Porter pressed on, but Welch indignantly drew the line at this. He returned to the question of front organizations.

"There's nothing immoral about fronts," Welch said. "What may be immoral is the purpose of the fronts."

He said one of the society's biggest fronts has been the Committee Against Summit Entanglements, formed to prevent Soviet Premier Khrushchev from coming to this country and "being honored."

"If it has an illegal or immoral purpose, that is a different story," Welch said,

"but there is nothing we advocate that is immoral."

After a sharp exchange, in which Porter sought to ask about charges that the Freedom Club here is a front for the John Birch Society, Welch cut off further debate with the student.

In another question, Welch was asked to give his opinion of Chief Justice Warren.

"I don't like him," he replied, adding:

"He has taken the lead in a long, continued effort to convert this republic into a democracy . . . and to get the American people to believe that what we are supposed to have is a democracy."

Welch said not all members of the society believe as he does about Chief Justice Warren but declared that a majority of them think "it would be for the good of the country to have Mr. Warren removed from his present position."

Asked his opinion of the Social Security program, Welch described it as "socialistic" and "one aspect of a police state communism."

While posing for pictures after the program, Welch was confronted by Grant Holcomb, CBS news commentator. Holcomb demanded to know why Welch had avoided questioning by the press in Los Angeles and why he had once written that former President Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

Welch said he would not answer the questions, brushed Holcomb aside and disappeared through the stage door with his bodyguard, B. Bennett.

The meeting here was sponsored by the John Birch Society chapters of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties. Dr. Granville Knight of Santa Barbara, a member of the society's national council, presided.

Tickets were sold out long ago. After receiving a report that about 500 counterfeit tickets had been printed, society members checked the color of all tickets and issued new ones for those that appeared legitimate.

An overflow of 200 to 300 persons, mostly UC students, listened to the speech in an adjoining amphitheater.

Ten uniformed sheriff's deputies were on hand to maintain order, but there were no incidents. About 30

to 35 young men and women carrying signs assembled half a mile away, but only a few appeared in front of the auditorium door.

Tuesday night's meeting in Shrine Auditorium, sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Los Ange-

les, attracted about 30 sign-carrying pickets who identified themselves as Socialists. Despite rumors that incidents would be created, there were no disturbances.

Charges Infiltration

In the prepared address which Welch delivered at both meetings, he pounded away on the theme of extensive Communist infiltration in this country through what he called a "principle of reversal."

He said Communists "have been heavily influencing all major decisions in our government since 1941."

"Ever since 1945 or 1946, or perhaps earlier," he said, "our government has been the most powerful single force supporting the Communist advance while always pretending to oppose that advance."

Raps Protestant Clergy

Welch also charged that the largest single body of Communists or their sympathizers in America is in the Protestant clergy. But he tempered both charges with these words:

"I am sure more than 98% of all the employees of our federal government have been and are loyal and patriotic Americans, even right through the very betrayals which they themselves were helping to implement . . . The vital question is not how many Communists there are but where they are . . .

"There are about 200,000 ministers and only about 7,000 of them (about 3%) could be called 'Consymp'—Communists or their sympathizers. Nobody is accusing the other 97% of anything except the gullibility and apathy which allows such a thing to exist."

Welch told his audiences that the strength of the Communist conspiracy does not lie in the "poor, struggling beatniks" but in the "very

top social, economic, political and educational circles of our country."

Through the "principle of reversal," he charged, America is being led down the road to communism by programs presented to the American people as ways of fighting communism. Among examples he cited were the foreign aid program, big defense budgets and the United Nations.

Used by Communists

The same principle is used by the Communists, he said, in getting the American people to parrot such slogans as "I Can't Stand Roosevelt but We Must Support Him Because of His Foreign Policy," "I Like Taft but He Can't Win" and "I Like What McCarthy Is Trying to Do but I Can't Stand His Methods."

"Basically, with minor exceptions indeed, there was nothing wrong with McCarthy's methods from the point of view of the patriotic Americans," Welch declared, "but there was everything wrong with them from the point of view of the Communists."

Welch said the same type of attack is now being made on the John Birch Society. He said a "concerted movement" by a good part of the press apparently was signaled by an article which appeared in the Communist People's World Feb. 25.

"What on earth does it take to make the American people recognize the Communist steamroller at work?" he asked.

Welch Challenged by Methodists' Kennedy

Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy of Los Angeles, immediate past-president of the Methodist Council of Bishops, Thursday wired a challenge to Robert Welch to "get specific or else admit that you really do not know what you are talking about."

Kennedy referred to the John Birch Society leader's charges in a speech here Tuesday night that there are about 7,000 Communist sym-

patnizers (Welch called them "comsymps") among the Protestant clergy in America.

After citing the extensive screening in the Southern California - Arizona Conference of the Methodist Church to guard against Communist infiltration among the clergy, Kennedy invited Welch to come before the church's Committee on Investigation and make his charges.

"The Methodist Church will act at once and if evidence is forthcoming, the accused will be brought to trial," stated Kennedy in his telegram. "If he is guilty, he will be dismissed from our ministry."

He added: "Believe me, I am most anxious to have you

come forth with any information you may have as I believe you will do if you are sincere."

Jewish War Vets' Head Condemns Birch Society

The national commander of the Jewish War Veterans today condemned the controversial John Birch Society of America as a threat to free institutions and potentially as dangerous as communism.

"We're as much opposed to isms on the right as isms on the left," said I. L. Feuer of Youngstown, Ohio, who will finish his term as national commander in August.

"Both these isms appear very dangerous to us. But the Birch Society is relatively new on the horizon. It is not as significant from the standpoint of news back East as it is out here."

FEUER SAID the danger of the Birch Society seemed to him that it might introduce one evil while trying to cure another.

"Our organization is very much opposed to communism, but we don't want to adopt one evil in order to cure another."

Feuer, who is on a national tour of JWV posts, arrived here Thursday after visiting posts and commu-

nity leaders in San Francisco. He plans to be here about five days.

Bishop Challenges Welch on Charges

Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy today wired this challenge to Robert Welch, head of the right-wing John Birch Society:

"Get specific or else admit that you really do not know what you are talking about."

The Protestant clergyman was referring to Welch's charge in a Los Angeles speech Tuesday that there are 7,000 Communists or Communist sympathizers among the Protestant clergy.

KENNEDY said in a telegram to Welch:

"The Methodist Church will act at once if evidence is forthcoming, the accused will be brought to trial. If guilty, he will be dismissed from our ministry."

"Believe me, I am anxious to have you come forth with any information you may have as I believe you will do if you are sincere."

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 4-14-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Arthur Laro

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

cc - Bureau
4/14/61
RM

b6

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/KM

100-59001-294

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 14 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Ike Declares U.S. Space Feats Are 'Remarkable'

SAN BERNARDINO (UPI) — Former President Eisenhower says U.S. scientists have done "a remarkable job" in the space and missiles field.

Eisenhower pointed out, before leaving here by train for his Gettysburg farm, that the Russians had a 10-year head-start on the United States in space exploration.

"THE RUSSIANS started in 1945, and we didn't start until 1955," Eisenhower said.

"The first time earth satellites were mentioned in a serious way to me was in 1955. That was in connec-

tion with the Geophysical Year. There was no thought then to have a competition in this field. Our scientific community is to be congratulated down the line."

Eisenhower discussed these points in a 10-minute press conference at the railroad station here:

1) The John Birch Society, whose founder, Robert Welch, said Eisenhower was a dupe of the Communists — "If I thought the people of America believe that I had done anything but oppose communism . . . fought it bitterly . . . then I'd be disappointed. I don't believe the American people believe

I have any use for it. The American people are going to fight Communists by positive means . . . not by making false accusations against anyone."

2) In answer to a question as to whether it was important to put the first man into space; "No. We've been expecting it for a year. I don't think we should be downcast. Our scientists have done a remarkable job. Our people are to be congratulated."

He did not discuss the military significance of the Russian feat.

3) On the Kennedy administration — "I wouldn't talk offhand about that. Our party (Republican) follows a sound, progressive program and will continue to do so. I don't want to criticize what the other fellow is doing."

Eisenhower, beaming and ruddy-cheeked, spoke vigorously and told newsmen with high good humor, "What I really ~~came~~ out here to say was 'I like Southern California.'"

LOS ANGELES MIRROR
DATE 4-15-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Arthur Laro
LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION
John Birch Society
SM-X
LA 100-59001
BU 62-104401

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

100-89601-895

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1961	
FBI — LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

OFFICE MEMORANDUM . UNITED STATES MEMORANDUM

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-1763) DATE 4-6-61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT
COMMUNIST PARTY
IS - C

b2

SOURCE	ACTIVITY	RECEIVED	AGENT	LOCATION
[REDACTED]		3-28-61	Writer	[REDACTED]

b7D

who has
furnished
reliable
information
in the past,
and whose
identity
should be
concealed.

b2

b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

cc: [REDACTED]

100-25365 (CP STRATEGY
IN INDUSTRY)
100-24346 (YOUTH MATTERS)
100-26047 (WOMEN'S MATTERS)
100-23423 (POLITICAL ACTIVITY)
100-24342 (LEGISLATIVE
ACTIVITY)
100-59001 (JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)
157-9 (AMERICAN NAZI PARTY)

(COPIES CONTINUED PG 2)

100-59001-296

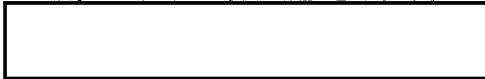
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 6 1961	
FBI, LOS ANGELES	

b6

b7C

LA 100-1763

2 - SAN DIEGO (REGISTERED)



b6

1 - NEW YORK (REGISTERED)



b7C

1 - DETROIT (REGISTERED)
(CP STRATEGY IN INDUSTRY)

2 - CHICAGO (REGISTERED)
(CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT)
(CP STRATEGY IN INDUSTRY)

RS:mak
(40)

mak

Read by

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R' or 'D' with a flourish.

LA 100-1763

[redacted] furnished SA [redacted] with a report taken in dictation by steno [redacted]. Upon transcription the report was reviewed and initialed by informant on 3-28-61 as follows:

b2

b7D

b6

b7C

[redacted]
meeting of [redacted] Southern California District Communist Party. was held [redacted]
[redacted]

"The meeting was chaired by [redacted] who announced there would be a one-point agenda. The request was then made by [redacted] that we proceed without a luncheon break and attempt to adjourn about 1:00 p.m., since there was only one point under discussion. It was agreed to postpone this question pending the discussion period.

b6

b7C

b7D

"The report was by [redacted] based on the National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting held on the question of unemployment. [redacted] recommended that all comrades read the GUS HALL article in the March, 1961 "Political Affairs" as background material in preparing reports for the sections and clubs.

"The report to the NEC was given by [redacted] and covered, roughly, the following points: the general aspects of the national situation as related to unemployment; the decline of industrial production by 8 per cent as compared with a 14 per cent decline in the 1957-1958 recession; a big drop in durable goods and basic industrial production; and 18 per cent drop in housing construction. The NEC feels that the bourgeoisie in the United States expects a pickup this spring, but no one is predicting a full recovery. The NEC estimates the situation as due to an underlying trend of political instability in American capitalism, with the 1961 recession taking place before there was an actual recovery from the 1957-1958 slump, thereby proving the correctness of the Marxist position that shorter and shorter intervals are occurring between crises and that there is no full recovery possible under the present level of capitalism in the United

States. Investments in industry are not taking place. There is a growth of chronically depressed areas and cities, an increasing growth in excess productivity, and in productive capacities a continuing high rate of unemployment.

"According to the NEC, the roots of the present economic stagnation go back to the period since World War II. There, therefore, exists the potential for a severe cyclical depression. This will make the present crisis in American capitalism more acute than those in the past because the cyclical crisis is now combined with a structural unemployment which is due to the growth of automation, technological improvements, and greater productivity. Certain areas of the people have been more hard hit by unemployment than others; such as, the youth and minorities. The reaction of the workers is that the Government is responsible for the functioning of the economy, and therefore there is no panic but a feeling that the Government must act before things get too bad.

"Major investments of capital are going into technological improvements for automation and mechanization, thus causing a deeper increase in the structural unemployment. Age levels 25 to 44 are hit the hardest in the present unemployment crisis. This is due to the fact that this is mostly the age level employed in the basic industries, which are taking the brunt of the unemployment crisis. There have been, however, some gains in jobs for women and a growth of white-collar employment opportunities as opposed to blue-collar work.

"On the question of rates of unemployment, the national rate, at this time, is 7.2 per cent, but the ratio of unemployment among Negroes is 14.7 per cent. The unemployment rate among women workers is 6.4 per cent for all women workers. For Negro women workers, the figure is 12.5 per cent.

"The question of youth entering the labor market creates another aspect of the crisis. There are 800,000 teen-agers in the labor market or attempting to break into the labor market. The statistics of the Government, however, do not reveal this fact because so many of these youths have never been able to actually obtain employment.

"Some unions are beginning to act in the face of the crisis. Reports given at the NEC showed that in Detroit, Michigan, for example, the UAW has made the following proposals:

- (1) A curb on the export of capital and the putting of special taxes on such exports to discourage this type of investment abroad.
- (2) An emphasis on the shorter workweek. Their position on this question is weakened by a gradualist approach.
- (3) The setting up of a "Coleman Young" campaign headquarters to service the unemployed and give them information as to their rights.

"In Chicago, Illinois, a small conference of approximately twenty unemployed workers was held, which was attended by CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT, a Party leader in the Chicago area. As a result, LIGHTFOOT was able to obtain leadership in this conference, and efforts are being made to expand the composition of the conference and to establish it as a major information service center for the unemployed in Chicago.

"In California the unemployment figure for metropolitan Los Angeles and Long Beach is now 220,000, with Negroes comprising 20 per cent of the above figure. In the opinion of the NEC, one reason is the heavy concentration of aircraft and war industry in Southern California. This heavy concentration has caused the crisis not only in this area but, in effect, upon the thirteen western states.

b6

b7C

"In outlining some of the steps taken in this area, [redacted] mentioned the demand of the Carpenters Union for a 30-hour week as one of the constructive proposals, as opposed to one of the so-called destructive proposals of more war orders for aircraft as a means of meeting the job crisis.

b7D

She urged a campaign to fight for trade with China and the eastern democracies. She urged a real campaign to reactivate the 1945 Relief Act in California. She made the following specific proposals:

- (1) In each organization, such as trade unions, fraternal organizations, churches, or wherever possible, to call for the setting up of unemployment committees within the organization to assist the unemployed in obtaining their rights through relief agencies, state unemployment compensation, and allied demands.
- (2) To unite on a community-wide basis all possible committees set up in organizations, as discussed above, into a community-wide council to aid the unemployed.
- (3) On an area basis, to bring in the councils from the various communities and to set up a series of independent information centers for the unemployed to advise them as to their legal rights and their rights under existing agencies to obtain relief or compensation of various sorts.
- (4) In all Party commissions, to discuss the question of unemployment and how it relates to that commission's field of activity, and to publicize material around these problems. As specific examples, she suggested that the Women's Commission conduct a fight on the question of aid to dependent children, a campaign for special aid for single unemployed women, a campaign around women in labor unions, and a campaign around the right of women to obtain employment, as well as a political examination of the changing role of women in industry as a result of automation and technological improvements.

In the Mexican Commission, an examination of the problems arising because of the shift in the character of the working class to engineers and other highly skilled technological workers, most of which bar Mexican-American or Negro applicants; that a leaflet in Spanish be issued on unemployment and on a program for its solution, including long-term solutions such as socialism.

- (5) The conducting of a legislative fight for reactivation of the 1945 Relief Act and for similar provisions for state-created job opportunities.
- (6) Activities to strengthen the building of the antimonopoly coalition as a programmatic approach to the unemployment problem on a national basis.

"This completed the main report and the floor was open for discussion, with [redacted] proposing a fifteen-minute limit for discussion. This was agreed to.

b6

b7C

b7D

"The first speaker was [redacted] who stated that the Kaiser plant in Fontana, California, is not operating at approximately 50 per cent but that the Party no longer has any members working in the Kaiser mill, which therefore makes it difficult to establish contacts in that plant.

"He spoke, also, of the showing of "Operation Abolition" at the high school in Riverside, California, and the fact that this drew the largest turnout of any community gathering in the history of Riverside. [redacted] estimated that at least 50 per cent of the audience was unfavorable to the film and to the commentary, which he said was given by someone associated with the Coast Federal Savings and Loan Association.

[redacted] spoke on the California Democratic Council conference and the panel on unemployment and automation, which she attended. She stated that there were very few trade unionists in the panel but that a proposal was made for a restraining program with a Government stipend for workers victimized by automation. There was also a discussion around a 35-hour week, with the position taken by [redacted] and by other trade unionists, at that time, that this must be done by Federal law and not by contractual negotiations.

"She also reported on a conference held by the 56th Assembly District Democratic Club, [redacted] and which demanded that CIO COPPE take over the activities incidental to the issue of unemployment, much of which is a legislative question.

[redacted] spoke very briefly on the need for rent control and utilities relief, pointing out that in an average family living on unemployment compensation, at least one half of the income goes to the landlord and the utility companies. b6 b7C b7D

[redacted] spoke on the increase of chronic unemployment in this period of the general crisis of capitalism. She quoted figures of two per cent in 1953, four per cent in 1957, and five per cent in 1961, who are now totally and chronically unemployed. She commented on the low level of the proposals of KENNEDY and REUTHER and stated that, even if these programs are put into effect, there will still be some six million chronically unemployed if and when we recover even to the 1958 level.

[redacted] proposed that the Women's Commission collect food for the unemployed workers.

[redacted] spoke on the question of mass layoffs due to automation and urged that the new so-called information centers for the unemployed not be set up on the same basis as the old Unemployment Councils of the 1930 depression period. He spoke on the special problems of unemployment among Negroes and Mexicans due to the changing character of jobs and unemployment and the shift to white-collar, technical and engineering work.

[redacted] spoke on the antimonopoly coalition and its relation to the struggle of the unemployed. He raised certain ideological questions around the educational role of the Communist Party in mobilizing the workers against the monopolies. He spoke of the growth of the ideology amongst the American working class that Government is responsible for the functioning of the economy and must take over when the economy breaks down. From this, he said, there has arisen an understanding that legislative struggle is essential. However, side by side with this constructive concept has grown the concept of reliance on Government, which he carefully differentiated from the previous concept, stating that the theory of reliance tends to weaken the working class when it is not linked with an understanding of the need to organize and force concessions from the Government.

b6

b7C

b7D

[redacted] spoke of the new problems within the labor movement as a result of the changing role of the unions, where fringe issues of health and welfare, pensions, and so on have become major contractual issues, but the old basic issues of hours and wages have now become subject to Federal and State legislation, and this has created confusion in the ranks of labor. He urged Communists in trade unions to fight for the shorter workweek as the major issue and pointed out that there is some reluctance amongst both the trade union leadership in some industries and the workers themselves to accept this principle because wages are now linked to productivity in the minds of the workers and this leads to their not questioning the profit issue. He pointed out that many workers fear the shorter workweek because they feel it will result in greater speed-up.

"He mentioned as another complicating factor the question of competitive factors; such as, foreign imports, exportation of capital, etc. He pointed out that because the unions are no longer conducting any real struggles at the point of production, there is a serious rise in the number of decertification petitions in major industries, such as the steel workers and the auto workers. He pointed out that because the unions have an orientation that their

role is to be a party to a contract which protects workers on the job, they fail to see their responsibility to the unemployed. He urged that the unemployed put pressure on the unions to provide the following services: (1) counseling to obtain their full rights under the law from all relief agencies, state agencies, etc., and (2) job placement.

[] spoke briefly on the Los Angeles Committee on Unemployment, which is an information type group oriented primarily to a county level with county agencies, and stated that this group has now developed to a point where they have what he described as quasi recognition from the county relief agencies.

"He urged that the youth unemployed be organized around a major fight for the passage of an American Youth Act, which would provide jobs and special opportunities for young workers.

b6

b7C

[] spoke on the building up of reactionary and fascist organizations as an effort to keep down the rising tide of radicalism which always develops in a period of economic crisis. He mentioned "Operation Abolition", the John Birch Society, and the American Nazi Party. He stressed the need for our Party to participate in lobbying and other public hearings around issues.

b7D

[] spoke on the fact that the working class holds the Government responsible for the operation of the system and, therefore, for their condition of unemployment; and he commented that this was good, but he stressed that the question of reliance by the workers on the Government represents a major danger because the American Government is itself an arena of struggle around positions. The President does not constitute the Government. The American Congress is the most reactionary of the three branches of Government, at this time. He outlined the course by which good bills are sometimes introduced but are whittled down by amendments in the Congress until they serve little purpose. As an example, he cited the Byrd Amendment to the proposed thirteen-week extension of

unemployment compensation benefits. He characterized President KENNEDY as a man who appeals to the Congress but is afraid to appeal to the people because the people unleashed cannot be controlled. He stated that the reactionary elements in the country are mobilizing new forms of pressure on the Congress; such as, setting up a group telephone pressure campaign, letterwriting campaign, and so on.

[redacted] said the progressives in Santa Barbara, California, are now organizing a Student Committee for Civil Rights at the Santa Barbara campus of the University of California, because there has been a rising influx of ideology around "Operation Abolition", the John Birch Society, etc. He stated there have even been appeals on the Santa Barbara campus by a Mr. ROARCH, who describes himself as Chairman of the American Nazi Party and who gives the address of Box 735, Globe, Arizona.

b6

b7C

b7D

[redacted] spoke on the John Birch Society and the growing menace of developing native fascist organizations in this period. She spoke of the class character and the interlocking characteristic of these fascist organizations and singled out the role of

[redacted] as one of the worst of this type of reactionary individual. [redacted] urged

a campaign demanding the removal of [redacted] on the basis of his anti-democratic ideology.

[redacted] reported that she has been informed by Station KPFK management that approximately one hundred letters a week are coming in to the station, demanding [redacted] She urged a letter-writing campaign to the station, [redacted]

[redacted] pointed out that with the rise of fascist organizations there has also arisen more democratic thought

and organization. As a result of this, we must turn our Party outward toward these people to involve them as much as possible in political thinking and organization around a progressive program. She pointed out that the people struggle only when there is no alternative. She urged greater study of the question of the changing structure of the American working class and an examination of Marxist ideology in the light of this fact.

[redacted] spoke on the profit motive as the basic factor in the unemployment situation and urged development of a legislative program to curb profiteering.

b6

[redacted] spoke on the need for a campaign to transfer from a wartime economy to a peacetime economy as an answer both to the unemployment problem and the problem of disarmament. She stressed the importance of legislative work and activity.

b7C

b7D

[redacted] spoke on the need to relate all issues to the basic question of unemployment, pointing out that the Muslim movement has as one of its key points a hatred of white supremacy and that much of this stems from the fact that many Negroes feel whites take away jobs from the Negroes.

[redacted]
[redacted] spoke on the question of piece work in the building trades in San Diego. It was totally unintelligible.

[redacted] spoke on the need to fight back at every level in every community on the question of unemployment.

"This completed the meeting, which adjourned at about 1:30 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

LA 100-1763



b6

b7C

b7D

who came but did not stay to
the meeting"

ACTION

INDEX

b6

b7C



LA 100-1763

Informant was thoroughly interviewed concerning the above and could add nothing further.

All necessary action in connection with this memo has been taken by the writer.

The Birch Society. Means and End

Some few years ago in that period when what was known as McCarthyism was at or near its zenith, one of the worried voices raised in warning was that of Judge Learned Hand, then the active dean of the Federal judiciary.

Judge Hand was concerned that the fear which was manifest then and which created and sustained McCarthyism was, in the last analysis, "a solvent which can eat out the cement that binds the stone together" and might "subject us to a despotism as evil as that we dread," the latter reference being of course to communism.

And while we would not care to pay the John Birch Society the compliment of over-emphasis, painting it as more influential than it is when considered nationally, neither can the society be ignored, for it also involves "a solvent which can eat out the cement that binds the stone together"; it also might "subject us to a despotism as evil as that we dread."

It is, or should be, easy enough to remember that major despotisms have before grown out of what started as similarly small movements, similarly seeming too extreme to attract general support. Hitler started on a small scale, to cite but one example from recent memory. Hitler, too, was able to attract substantial support from the upper echelons of the business community, as well as from the lunatic fringe present in any society, by stressing the menace of communism. Hitler was not fussy about his methods. And finally, this country was obliged to spend quite a bit of blood and money in correcting that particular anti-Communist.

The John Birch Society, partly emerging voluntarily from its original secrecy and partly being dragged into public awareness, also asks acceptance on the grounds that it is militantly anti-Communist, and that in combating communism, anything goes, no matter who or what gets trampled on in the process!

The policies and operation of the organization have been related in the news columns of this newspaper and elsewhere; its contempt for our present form of government, its authoritarianism, its refusal to countenance internal debate, the strict allegiance to the founder expected of all members, its willingness to borrow tactics from hard-core Communists — to smear, to harass, to intimidate, to organize secret chapters, to use front organizations, to infiltrate legitimate organizations and seek to subvert them to its purposes, etc.

All this in the name of its opposition to Communists — and a Communist, by the Birchists' broad definition, seems to mean anyone unwilling to accept its extreme standard as his own political and patriotic guidon.

There is bound to arise a suspicion that its real goal is something greater and less noble than simply the elimination of the Communist threat.

In addition there is the book written by Robert Welch, founder and head of the society, in advance of the birth of his brainchild, the society itself. In it the three American Presidents previous to Mr. Kennedy are painted as participants in the Communist conspiracy, along with Milton Eisenhower, John Foster and Allen Dulles, and others. We are currently asked by some of the members of the society (including Mr. Welch) now owning up to membership to ignore this book because after all it was meant only for private circulation.

Yet it strikes us as more than merely reasonable to assume that that book meant only for private circulation gives better insight into the true nature of this man and his thinking than even his public statements.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-94 BY SP4-GSM/JM

PRESS-ENTERPRISE
Sunday
APRIL 2, 1961
Riverside, Calif.
ED: Howard H. Hays,
Jr.

Bufile 62-10441

100-59001-297

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 8 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

such as the "Blue Book," the society's basic policy declaration, which is itself disconcerting enough.

Now there are various demands, from Sacramento to Washington, that the society be subjected to one kind of investigation or another. And we believe that exposure to the publicity which the organization originally sought to avoid will act to its detriment. But whether Congressional or legislative investigation, of the kind to which organizations of the left and not-so-left have been subjected would serve a proper purpose — of this we have some doubt.

Governor Brown has said that it is not for government to harass this organization, however repugnant certain of its views and techniques may be, so long as it violates no laws, and that its freedom to speak should not be intimidated. The Governor is to be commended for showing more tolerance toward this organization's freedom to speak and be listened to than it and its sympathizers ordinarily accord those with whom they disagree.

Both the State and Federal Justice Departments have made it clear that they are concerned with the John Birch Society; the former is already investigating and presumably the latter will. We believe that for the time being at least, it is best left at that.

We can well appreciate the indignation such Congressmen as Senator Kuchel feel when they consider the vicious tactics of the society. But we don't quite know what the Government Operations Committee, to whose particular attention he has called the matter, can do about the society's ridiculous letter-writing campaign demanding the impeachment of ~~Chief Justice~~ Warren.

Yet it is worth noting ~~in passing~~ that the two Congressional groups which ordinarily rush to concern themselves with political extremism of the radical left and not-so-radical left show only the very barest investigative interest in the John Birch Society. The possibility of a double standard in defining "un-Americanism" suggests itself.

Chairman Walter of the House Committee on Un-American Activities doubts that his group has jurisdiction — a brand new concern for that committee.

As to the Senate Internal Subcommittee, in view of the fact that one of its functionaries, without that body's authorization, wrote and distributed a form letter (over the chairman's name) describing the John Birch Society as merely a "patriotic organization," our own suggestion would be that the subcommittee investigate its staff.

To find not only powerful businessmen but even Congressmen accepting the John Birch Society is highly distressing. Yet our own faith in the general intelligence — despite some serious challenges from time to time — remains sufficiently high to permit us to believe the country can survive this particular organization, just as we continue to believe the country can survive the threat of communism.

Yet it is well to remember that the threat to our freedom comes from both extremes, not only from the Communists, but from organizations such as the Birchists and — to borrow a phrase — their dupes, who admittedly or without admitting it are willing to employ the same "mean and dirty" methods of the people they profess to abhor.

Patriotism has been corrupted before; it can be, as Samuel Johnson said, "the last refuge of scoundrels." Nothing, including anti-communism, justifies this corruption. Anti-communism as an end does not justify subversive means.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-41016) DATE: 4/11/61

FROM: SA [REDACTED] b6

SUBJECT: CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE AMERICAN FREEDOMS (CCPAF) b7C
IS - C

b2

b7D

SOURCE	ACTIVITY	RECEIVED	AGENT	LOCATION
--------	----------	----------	-------	----------

[REDACTED]	Farewell Party	3/27/61	writer	[REDACTED]
------------	----------------	---------	--------	------------

who has furnished reliable information in the past and whose identity should be concealed.

for FRANK

WILKINSON

auspices CCPAF, 3/23/61.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/SM

b2

b7D

Informant furnished the following written report:

cc: [REDACTED]

b6

b7C

62-1664 (HCUA)
100-3267 (ACLU)

100-59001 (JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)

100-33973 (FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF LOS ANGELES)

100-59001-298

Searched Indexed
Serialized Filed

APRIL 11, 1961
FBI, LOS ANGELES

CEW/slp
(33)

Read by

CEW

LA 100-41016

"Report Written
March 24, 1961

"Date, March 23, 1961
Place, Baces Hall, 1528 North Vermont Ave.
Time, 8 P.M. - 11 P.M.
Feature, Farewell rally for FRANK WILKINSON
Sponsor, Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms.
Speakers, Chairman of the Evening,
REV. STEPHEN H. FRITCHMAN
DOROTHY MARSHALL, Chairman of CCPAF
ADRIAN SCOTT
OLIVER HASKELL
GEO. CROWELL
FLORENCE SLOAT
JACK TENNER

"Topic,

"The big sacrifice FRANK WILKINSON is making
for the fight for Civil Liberties and to abolish the House
Committee of Un-American Activities.

"Attendance,

"Over 400, among those present were,



b6

b7C



b6

b7C

"The general theme of the speakers, was what a wonderful, sincere man FRANK WILKINSON is, and the grave injustice done to him, because he has to spend one year in prison, because he stood up for his rights as a citizen.

"They stated that they had just started to fight for freedom and to abolish the HUAC and Civil Liberties, and integration.

"They spoke of the Negro problem in the South and the reason CARL BRADEN was convicted was because this would block the integration bill for the present in the South.

"Rev. STEPHEN H. FRITCHMAN spoke about the wonderful sincere man FRANK WILKINSON is, and how hard he has worked to abolish the HCUA & for Civil Rights and integration.

"We must all continue to carry on his work and fight for these things while he is in prison."

"Why don't they investigate the John Birch Society?"

"He also asked all present to write to Gov. BROWN, a note of appreciation, and thanks for the stand he took in FRANK WILKINSON's defense.

"FLORENCE SLOAT, spoke about the way he helped the school teachers, especially RUTH BISHOP, when they had to appear before the HCUA.

"FRANK WILKINSON, thanked those present for their support. He said, 'There were 5000 or more students present who gave me a rousing reception.' They agreed to help fight the injustice done by the HCUA and to fight for the abolishment of the committee.

LA 100-41016

"They agreed with me, the picture Operation Abolition was not a true picture but it had been misrepresented by the HCUA."

"He referred to the Court decisions, and quoted the Dissenting Opinions of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Wm. O. DOUGLAS and HUGO BLACK.

"He said, 'One of the students asked me, if I were a Communist?'

"I replied, 'I decline to answer that question until such a time as the House Un-American Activities Committee is Abolished.'

"When people living in this country regardless of race, color, creed, or politics, can get work and not have to answer whether they are a Communist or not, and can teach school without answering that question, then I shall answer that question."

"We will not save free speech if we are not prepared to go to jail in its defense. I am prepared to pay that price."

"The audience was composed of many people from the First Unitarian Church.

"There was a group of thirty or more teenagers, from the Church, singing songs & chanting for freedom & free speech.

"There were over 400 present, and many were sitting on the floor.

"A collection was taken for the benefit of FRANK WILKINSON, which amounted to \$2016 plus a monthly pledge of \$350. for twelve months."

ACTION:

Informant was thoroughly interviewed and could add nothing further to the above.

All necessary action in connection with this memo has been taken by the writer.

The following name is being indexed to this memo:



b6

b7C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Los Angeles (100-59001)

DATE: April 12, 1961

FROM : ASAC W. M. ALEXANDER

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

b6

b7C

At 1:55 p.m., April 7, 1961, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LOS ANGELES EXAMINER, called me and stated that the EXAMINER was planning to run a series of articles as told to a reporter by a student at the University of California at Santa Barbara, who had infiltrated the John Birch Society on the campus at Santa Barbara.

[REDACTED] said that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the student organization of the Birch Society on the campus.

b6

b7C

Index

b6

b7C

[REDACTED] stated he was passing this information along to us in the event it was of any value to us.

Desk #1 is requested to index the above names and determine whether or not there is any information in our files which could be identifiable with these individuals.

WMA:esc
(1)

b6

b7C

I

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/M

b6

b7C

100-59001-299

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 12 1961	
LES	

BT

Date

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Subject

Aliases

Address

Birth Date

Birthplace

☐ Exact Spelling

☐ All References

☐ Main Subversive Case Files Only

☐ Subversive References Only

☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only

☐ Criminal References Only

☐ Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)

☐ Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)

☐ Restrict to Locality of

File & Serial Number

Remarks

File & Serial Number

Remarks

b6

b7C

many X's of refs
none with
designation
of student or SA
was age around
20 yrs that
are sub.
+ crim X's of
refs within that
age limit not
listed

b6

b7C

Requested by

Squad

Extension

File No.

Searched by

(date)

Consolidated by

(date)

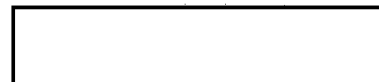
Reviewed by

(date)

File Review Symbols

I - Identical
NI - Not identical

? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference



FBI's Hoover: 'No Job for Vigilantes'

ROBERT WELCH of Massachusetts, the candy-maker turned Communist hunter, this week is visiting California, the fountain-head of the faithful.

In the past few weeks, Mr. Welch's brainchild, the John Birch Society, has been the subject of countless fearful words in the press, sermons, speeches and the halls of Congress. We can only imagine that it will be the subject of many more.

And deservedly so because the Society, in our view, is a wholehearted believer in the conspiracy theory history. Its founder, and it seems reasonable to a good share of its members believe that every tune and every setback suffered by America attributable to some dark, treasonous plot enemies. The enemy, in the Society's eyes, is Communists.

Those who subscribe to this theory live in a state of suspicion and hysteria. This is bad, worse still is their attempt to spread their ideas to others and to indict as "Reds" or dupes all who maintain their sanity.

By this latter tactic, the Society may spell the end of other conservative elements. Already, they have induced the "New Conservatives" of Nixon and Goldwater to a political limbo.

To support their extremism, right-wing faction has been fond of quoting the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, who at times sees Red ghosts visible to few others.

But Mr. Hoover, in a memo to law enforcement officials, has just banished the John Birch Society beyond the pale by castigating "vigilante action" by Americans to combat communism.

"The label of 'Communist' is too often indiscriminately attached to those whose views differ from the majority," Hoover said.

"This is neither the time for inaction nor vigilante action (against communism). The ingredients for Communist coups in nations which have fallen under its spell always include a populace shaken with fear, hysteria and confusion.

"There is above all the danger of irresponsible counteraction by citizens who lend impetus to communism through inept attempts to fight this insidious menace.

"The job of containing communism is one for legal authorities with the steadfast cooperation of every loyal citizen . . . We must unite, we must understand our basic heritage under law, and we must face the communist menace with deliberation, quiet courage and knowledge," Hoover said.

In the light of Hoover's warning, it will be interesting to see what tack the Birch Society's founder takes on his current visit to Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

Ventura County Star-Free Press

Ventura, California

April 12, 1961

Editor: Julius Gius

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/DM

cc - Bureau

b6

b7C

100-59001-300

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

951

Welch Says He's Happy With Southland Visit

Birch Society Founder Arrives From
Santa Barbara, Leaves Later for Phoenix

John Birch Society founder Robert Welch expressed pleasure about his Southland visit Friday before making a hide-and-seek departure for Phoenix at Los Angeles International Airport.

"I am very happy and very encouraged about the visit," Welch said.

He stepped off a United Air Lines plane from Santa Barbara at 7:50 a.m. and boarded another plane for Phoenix at 10:25 a.m. after making sure that no photographers were in sight.

No General Comment

Welch refused to make any general comments or to answer questions.

"A trip like this is tiring enough without holding interviews," he said. "They (newspaper reporters) seem to think I'm three persons."

He had refused to hold a

press conference during his Southland visit, which included major addresses in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

Welch was alone on the flight from Santa Barbara, and stepped from the plane carrying his own suitcase, a satchel and cane.

As he walked towards the terminal he was asked for his comments on the trip to Southern California. Then he was asked if he thought the national publicity and controversy about the John Birch Society had interfered in the society's mission.

"No, not at all," he said. "But now you've got me answering questions. I have nothing more to say."

He took a nap between flights, then returned to an airline counter to ask for private access to the plane.

Welch said he will be on the road another week before returning to Birch headquarters in Massachusetts.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-15-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK B. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

SM-X

LA 100-59001

BU 62-104401

b6

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4 BJA/JM

100-59001-301

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

957

Gen. Walker Denies Ties to Birch Society

Commander in Augsburg, Germany, Claims
Division Is Propaganda Barrage Target

AUGSBURG, Germany (AP) — Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker denied Friday that his division information program is connected with the controversial John Birch Society.

He also declared that statements attributed to him alleging prominent American political leaders are "pink" or Communist were untrue.

The general, commander of the 24th Infantry Division here, issued his statement after a privately owned servicemen's newspaper, Overseas Weekly, claimed his division was exposed to "a propaganda barrage on the philosophy of the controversial John Birch Society."

Walker Answers

The newspaper said this campaign was run by "special warfare" programs set up by Walker. Asked to comment, Walker said:

"The special warfare section of the headquarters staff of the 24th Infantry Division co-ordinates the probe program, which is original and extensive in source material. The program is not associated or affiliated with any organization or society. It is designed to develop the understanding of American military and civil heritage, responsibility toward that heritage, and the tactics and objectives of those enemies who would destroy it."

In Washington, Sen. Proxmire (D-Wis.) called Walker "a pitifully misguided general."

Proxmire added in a Senate speech that the story about Walker should be investigated and if it is true he called Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, former President Truman and former Secretary of State Acheson pinks. Walker should be relieved of his command.

Refers to Morons

The senator said the incident shows that the fight against communism should be taken over by "intelligent" people and not left to "morons."

Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.) asked the Army for a report on the statements attributed to Walker.

"Generals are entitled to whatever lunatic private views they wish to espouse," Reuss said in a letter to Secretary of the Army Elvis J. Stahr Jr. "They are not entitled to use the machinery of the U.S. Army to try to corrupt our troops."

Walker said in his statement:

"Statements in the Overseas Weekly of 16 April, 1961, alleged to have been made by me on 24 Jan., 1960, are untrue."

When advised that this was not a denial that the general had made the remarks attributed to him in the publication, a division spokesman said he could not expand on the general's comment.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SM-BSA/JM

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-15-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK B. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

SM-X

LA 100-59001

BU 62-104401

cc - Bureau

4/17/61

b6

b7C

100-59001-302

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Preacher Sues Birch Group for Slander

By a Times Correspondent

SANTA ANA — A La Habra preacher who claims he was falsely called a Communist at a John Birch Society meeting filed a \$150,000 slander suit Friday in Superior Court here.

Named as defendants were Dr. James F. Garry, a Fullerton dentist; the John Birch Society and its president, Robert Welch.

The Rev. Arthur E. Harrington, pastor of the First Methodist Church of La Habra, complained that at a "Fullerton cell" meeting of the society on Feb. 9, Dr. Garry stood up and referred to "Rev. Harrington of La Habra, who is a Communist."

Issues Denial

Through his lawyer, Eugene Langhauser, the preacher called this false and defamatory and said it exposed him to hatred, contempt and ridicule.

He denied ever being a Communist and said he is, by contrast, a Christian, God-fearing minister.

Harrington asked \$100,000 exemplary and \$50,000 general damages.

Dr. Garry later told The Times that he never made any statement calling Harrington a Communist and that the meeting cited was not that of the Birch Society but the Christian School for Anti-Communism. He added that he barely knows the plaintiff: "I met him once, fleetingly, and I don't think we'd even recognize each other if we met again." Garry said he is a member of the Birch Society.

Index

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/m

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE ~~4-15-61~~

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK B. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

SM-X

LA 100-59001

BU 62-104401

CC-Bureau 4/12/61

b6

b7C

100-59001-38

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

Welch Sued By Pastor On 'Smear'

SANTA ANA, Calif., April 15 (UPI)—A Methodist minister is suing Robert Welch and 31 other members of the John Birch Society for \$150,000, charging a member of the controversial right-wing group called him a Communist.

In the suit, filed yesterday by his attorney, the Rev. Arthur E. Harrington of the La Habra, Calif., Methodist Church, denied that he had ever been a Communist or associated with Communist-linking organizations.

The court action, which described Harrington as a "devout Christian" whose beliefs were "wholly incompatible with those of Communism," named Welch, president and founder of the Birch Society; Dr. James F. Garry, a Fullerton, Calif., dentist, and 30 John Does as defendants.

Harrington said in the suit that Garry was an official or leader of the society's Fullerton chapter, and alleged that on Feb. 9 the dentist told a meeting in Anaheim, Calif., that "Rev. Harrington, of La Habra, is a Communist, period."

The minister's suit, which asks \$50,000 in general damages and \$100,000 in exemplary damages, further charges that Harrington has been ostracized in his home town as a result of the remarks Garry is said to have made.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-86 BY SP4-BJA/SM

LOS ANGELES EVENING

HERALD-EXPRESS

DATE 4-15-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR H. H. Krauch

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

John Birch Society

SM-X

LA 100-59001

BU 62-104401

cc - Bureau 4/17/61

b6

b7C

100-59001-304

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Handwritten signature]

Gen. Walker Relieved of Command

Army Plans to Probe Charges on Birch Society

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, accused by an overseas newspaper of indoctrinating his troops with the views of the controversial John Birch Society, was relieved of his command Monday pending an investigation.

Walker, who directed the Army troops that enforced integration at Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., was ordered to lay down his command of the 24th Infantry Division in Germany and proceed to the Army's European headquarters in Heidelberg.

Army Secretary Elvis Stahr said he relieved the two-star general of his command "pending the outcome of an official investigation of certain public statements and actions of Gen. Walker." Gen. Bruce Clarke, U.S. Army commander in Europe, will head the inquiry.

Smear Campaign?

Rep. Frank Kowalski (D-Conn.), a retired Army colonel and West Point graduate, demanded that Walker be court martialed if the investigation showed he had conducted a smear campaign against the publication which made the charges, the Overseas Weekly.

Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.), who had asked Stahr several days ago to investigate, praised the secretary's action.

"I think the Army is proceeding in the proper manner," Reuss said. "If Gen. Walker has done what the newspaper says he has done he ought to be removed. If not, he should sue."

Walker had been scheduled to return to the United States to take command of the 8th Corps, an Army reserve headquarters in Austin, Tex. The Army denied last week that the transfer had anything to do with the publication's charges.

'Definitely Pink'

The newspaper is a private publication owned by Americans and distributed among U.S. troops in Europe. It said Walker had labeled as "definitely pink" former President Truman, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and former Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

The 50-year-old Walker said the charges were not true. He later branded Overseas Weekly as "immoral, unscrupulous, incompetent and destructive."

The newspaper's editor, John Dornberg, said he had sworn affidavits that Walker made the charge about Mr. Truman, Mrs. Roosevelt and Acheson at a Jan. 24 Parent-Teachers Assn. meeting in Augsburg.

The publication said Walker named as confirmed Communists Edward R. Murrow, director of the U.S. Information Agency; columnist Walter Lippmann, a friend of President Kennedy; and Columbia Broadcasting System commentator Eric Sevareid.

Indoctrinate Troops

The newspaper said the general told the PTA meeting that 60% of the American newspaper and radio-TV industries were Communist controlled.

Overseas Weekly said Walker had set up a "pro-blue program" to indoctrinate his troops with views based on the philosophy of the John Birch Society.

Walker replied in a statement that the program was not associated with any organization.

"It is designed to develop the understanding of American military and civil heritage, responsibilities toward that heritage and the topics and objectives of those enemies who would destroy us," he said.

Life of Birch

Overseas Weekly said copies of "the life of John Birch" by the society's founder, Robert W. Welch Jr., were distributed to all company and battery day-rooms in the 24th Infantry Division.

It said copies of Welch's magazine, American Opinion, were placed on Stars and Stripes newsstands in the Augsburg area at the request of someone in the division. It said subscription applications for the magazine were distributed in the division.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DATE 4-18-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR NICK B. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-96 BY SPY-BSA/DM

100-59001-308

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 13 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Birch Chief Raps 'Red Appeasement'

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Chronicle, in a copy-righted story, today quoted Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, as saying he does not like what he called the "continuing appeasement" of the Communists by the Kennedy administration. Welch also was quoted as saying there are more Communist sympathizers in the federal government than ever before, including the diplomatic corps.

Reporter Saul Friedman asked how many Communists or sympathizers are in the diplomatic corps. "I THINK IT'S fairly heavy in the diplomatic corps," Welch replied. "I really do. It's fairly heavy percentage-wise."

"What about Kennedy himself?" Friedman asked. "What classification would you make?"

Welch replied: "Well, I was asked that in a place, and I tried to stay out of that argument, but I was asked it in. I guess San-

ta Barbara, and I said that I did not think that Mr. Kennedy was as much a captive of the Communists as the previous administration had been, but I still don't like the continuing appeasement and that's all I think I should say on that."

THE CHRONICLE said its interview was the first granted by Welch since the Birch Society became the center of a national controversy.

Welch described the society's basic goal this way:

"To keep America from becoming a democracy, the worst form of government, and to keep it a constitutional republic, the best form . . . Americans have been brainwashed into thinking this a democracy. It is a constitutional republic."

He denied that members of the society accuse persons of being Communists without having evidence. He acknowledged, however, that some local chapters "can get overly ambitious and go off on some bum slants."

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 4-18-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Arthur Laro

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4 BJA/DM

100-59001-306

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

'LET'S HAVE FACTS'

Noted Editor Hits at Birch Charges

A Pulitzer Prize-winning editor today took his fellow editors to task for their treatment of controversial topics.

"To many editors, objectivity means giving equal

time to scoundrels and saints," said Harry Ashmore, formerly editor of Little Rock's Arkansas Gazette.

Ashmore, now editor of the Encyclopedia Britannica, offered a suggestion on how to deal with statements of Robert Welch, founder of the ultra right-wing John Birch Society.

"WHEN WELCH makes a statement and the press reports it, the papers also should tell what the facts are," said Ashmore.

He gave his views on a variety of topics at a press conference at City College where he later addressed students.

On the Muslim movement, which advocates black supremacy, Ashmore said:

"It may be growing, but it has no future."

LOS ANGELES MIRROR

DATE 4-18-61

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

EDITOR Arthur Hare

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-8-96 BY SP4-BJA/OM

#357,434

cc - Bureau
Hester ref.

100-59001-307

File Stripped

Initials R

Date 8-8-72

b6

b7C

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <u>wood</u>	FILED <u>wood</u>
APR 13 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

No Duplication Fees are charged for Deleted Page Information Sheet(s).

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 2
Page 129 ~ b6, b7C
Page 130 ~ b6, b7C